

**Sierra County
Downieville, California**



**Community Library Needs Assessment Report
Section 20440: Appendix 3**

SIERRA VALLEY LIBRARY AND CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CENTER

**Serving the
Sierra Valley Communities of**

**Calpine
City of Loyalton
Sattley
Sierraville
Sierra Brooks**

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the
California Reading and Literacy Improvement
and Public Library Construction and Renovation
Bond Act of 2000

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Prepared by:
W. Dean Diederich, AICP
Margaret Miles, MLIS, Plumas County Librarian

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OVERALL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sierra County Children and Families Commission (SCCFC), the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District (SPJUSD), the Sierra County Superintendent of Schools / Sierra County Office of Education (SCOE), and the County of Sierra have collaborated in the development of a 7,420 square foot joint use facility to be located in the City of Loyalton. The project site for the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is located at the Loyalton Elementary School, 111 Beckwith Road, Loyalton, California.

Sierra County is the only county in California that does not have a library according to State standards. Sierra County has an extremely large land area and the second smallest population base statewide. The small communities that are dispersed throughout the county have very few services available to them. Demographically, Sierra County has an aging population and has a greater percentage of adults over the age of 65 than the statewide average. A lack of public transportation and long driving distances to larger communities indicates a need for library services to be located within the County in order to make them accessible to the public.

The Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is located in the heart of the civic use area for the Sierra Valley communities. The new building will be immediately adjacent to an elementary school, a high school, and a community park that includes a municipal swimming pool, a skateboarding facility, playground equipment, tennis courts, and picnic shelters that draw residents to the area. The project site is extremely well known throughout the community and is within a 1/2-mile walking distance for approximately half of the service area population.

A full-service library will serve to meet the informational and recreational reading needs of the Sierra Valley Community and will provide a window on the world for people who are now geographically isolated from many basic library services. Based on community input collected for the Community Needs Assessment, a new library should ideally be built as part of a multi-purpose facility and partnered with other agencies to maximize services and minimize costs.

Sierra County contracts with Plumas County for library services and either rents or receives donated spaces for four small library stations. Interest surveys, community forums and focus group meetings all document a strong desire and need for a permanent, full-service library to be established in Sierra County. The County has been trying for over ten years to come up with the right combination of land, building design, community support and financial assistance to be able to satisfy this need.

Sierra County is economically challenged, with lower than statewide average family and per capita income, high seasonal and average annual unemployment rates and a very small property tax and sales tax base to fund government services. A needs assessment conducted in 2000 by the Sierra County Children and Families Commission showed a lack of educational and recreational opportunities for young children, child development information, parenting classes, and space for community programs. A library was ranked as one of the most important community services and was determined by the Commission as a priority for the community.

The Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District serves all of Sierra County, plus communities in eastern Plumas County. The County's schools boast a high API index and a higher number of high school graduates than the state average; however, the County lags in the number of college graduates, and there is no opportunity for higher learning in the County. The local schools include school libraries, but these are not available to children after school, and families indicated the lack of curriculum-related library materials and Internet access as barriers to completing homework assignments. The District is responsible for providing appropriate remedial and intervention programs to meet the needs of children who are struggling in their academic performance. The District and the Sierra County Office of Education have recognized the need for a homework center where students can have access to trained staff with electronic and print curriculum-related resources.

When Sierra County was offered the opportunity to partner with the SCCFC, SPJUSD and SCOE in creating a multi-purpose facility to integrate and coordinate public service programs to maximize the benefits to eastern Sierra County communities, it became apparent that the time for a County Library had finally arrived. The School District has made a building site available on the property of Loyalton Elementary School and is willing to partner with the County and SCOE to create a homework/family computer center that can take advantage of the high-speed Internet access hub that was recently installed at Loyalton Elementary School. Without the availability of the District land, it is doubtful an adequate site could be located with adequate infrastructure, space for on-site parking or in such close proximity to the majority of residents in Sierra Valley.

SCCFC will operate a Children and Family Center, incorporating a preschool and child care day center, after-school programs, and instructional space for family skills classes into the multi-purpose facility. The County's partnership with SCCFC will provide a single point of entry to a facility with complementary services that meet a broader range of community needs than either partner could provide separately. Other needs, expressed in the Community Survey and in focus groups, can also be met by construction of a Sierra Valley Library. A confidential space for literacy services is needed to address the high number of low-literacy adults and to meet the needs of the literacy students who have been identified by the Sierra County Literacy Program. Community meeting room space is necessary to present educational and recreational programs for children, young adults, adults and seniors, and to provide a location for numerous community agencies to meet. The lack of a career or employment center in the county indicates that career information, as well as materials and an environment to inspire life-long learning, are needed in Sierra County.

Sierra County, celebrating 150 years of service in 2002, has a rich and colorful history to match its people. There is avid interest in the history of the gold mining, ranching and pioneer life that occurred in this region, not only on the part of multi-generation locals, but nationwide. Residents interviewed in focus groups expressed a need for local history information to be housed in an accessible and protected location with study space for researchers. A Local History Room located in a library in Sierra Valley would provide access to a variety of materials that are currently difficult or impossible for the public to access. Sierra Valley residents understand the importance of a Library in improving the quality of life in their aging and economically challenged area, and are grateful for the opportunity to create the first permanent Library in Sierra County's long and colorful history.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

From the initial concept to the practical design and political support to develop the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center, there have been numerous individuals and groups that helped to make this project a reality. The following is a partial list of everyone who is working to bring permanent library services to Sierra County:

Sierra County Board of Supervisors

Arnie Gutman, District 1
Peter W. Heubner, District 2
Bill Nunes, District 3 (Chair - 2004)
Brooks Mitchell, District 4
Patricia Whitley, District 5, (Chair - 2003)

Sierra Plumas Joint Unified School District

Sharon Dryden (Board President)
Billy Epps
Melissa Kaput
Gene Moses
Michael Thomas
Kathy Wright
Todd York
Mike Filippini, Superintendent

Sierra County Office of Education

Mary Genasci, County Superintendent of Schools
William R. Rouse, Former Superintendent (in memory of)

Sierra County Children and Families Commission

William Demers
Marjorie Brownie (Chair)
Mary Genasci
Donna Metzler
Patricia Whitley
Pam Filippini (former)
Don Hemphill (former)
Klaus Ludwig (former)
William Rouse (former)
Gloria Wyeth Executive Director

City of Loyalton

Mike Hudson, Mayor
Joyce Cameron, Council-member
Kathy LeBlanc, Council-member
Bill Loveridge, Council-member
Milt Gottardi (former Mayor)

Toddler Towers Day Care

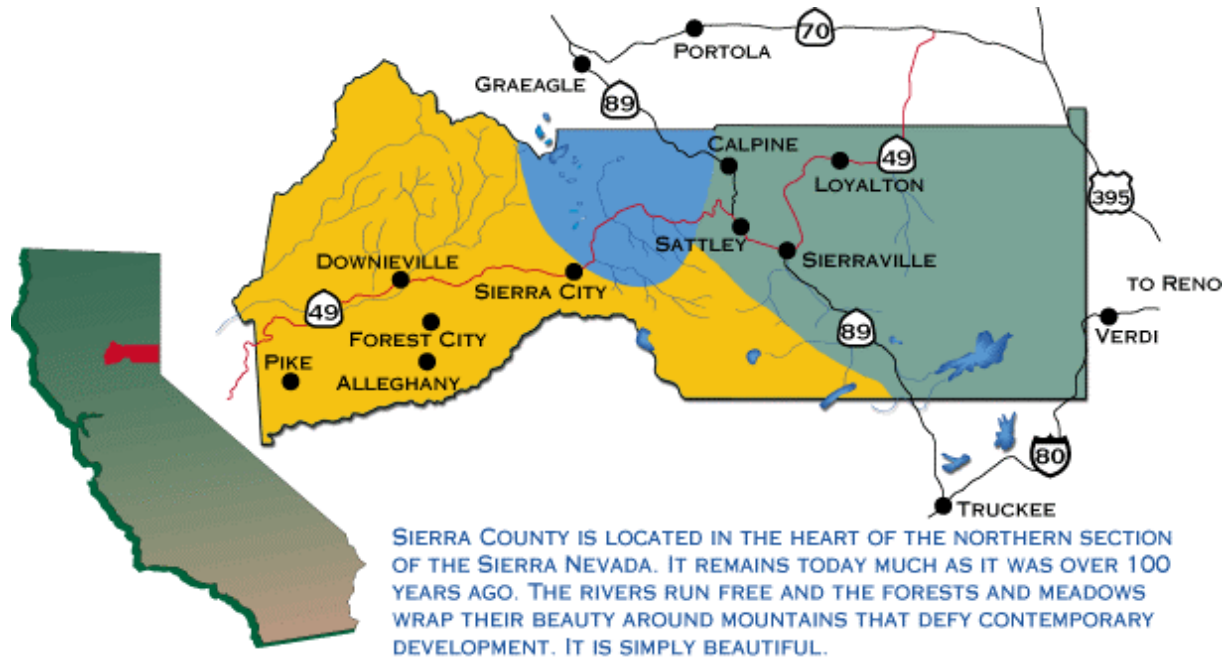
Pam Filippini, Center Director
Carolyn Widman, Chair, Toddler Towers Non-Profit Board

Tim Beals, Sierra County Director of Planning and Building Department
Penny Berry, Site Administrator, Loyalton Elementary School
William Copren, Sierra County Assessor & Historical Society member
William Demers, Sierra County Director of Human Services
Lisa Evans, SCOE Program Specialist
Sue Gressel, Spanish Translator
Linda Guffin, Special Education Teacher, SCOE
Paul Guffin, Sierra County Child Care Council
Charlene Kreeger, Manager, Resource & Referral Network Sierra Nevada Children Services
Loyalton Rotary Club
Scott McCallum, SCOE Special Projects Manager
Janet McHenry and the Loyalton High School 11th & 12th grade English students
Van Maddox, Sierra County Auditor
Betsy & Stephan Melancon
Margaret Miles, MLIS, Plumas County Librarian serving Sierra County
Tammy Muldoon, Sierra County Literacy Aide
Becky Toback

In addition, thank you to all the participants in the community discussion and focus groups, the design charettes, and everyone who took the time to fill in a library interest survey or attended one of the public agency board meetings to hear the presentations and express an interest in the project. Finally, thank you to all the agency staff members and the legal, planning, design and engineering professionals who helped to figure out a way to make this project a reality. Our apologies for anyone we may have inadvertently missed who is working to bring quality library service to the Sierra Valley.

INTRODUCTION

Sierra County, population 3,555 (2000 Census), is located in the heart of the northern section of the Sierra Nevada on Highway 49 on the eastern edge of California. Sierra County consists of 950 square miles of unparalleled beauty, featuring heavily forested canyons, the largest alpine valley in North America, wild rivers, unspoiled mountain lakes and streams, charming gold rush towns, and century old ranching and logging communities.



source: Sierra County Chamber of Commerce

Sierra County is bordered by Plumas and Lassen counties to the north, Nevada County to the south, Yuba County to the west, and the State of Nevada to the east. Elevations range from 1,800 to 8,589 feet. Large portions of the County are included in the Tahoe National Forest and part of the Toiyabe National Forest. The climate is typical for counties located in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains with cool, mild summers and cold weather with heavy snowfall, especially at higher elevations, during winter. Rainfall varies from 40 to 80 inches annually.

Sierra County contains some of the most beautiful recreational lakes in the area. The largest of these lakes are Stampede Reservoir, Jackson Meadow Reservoir, Sardine Lake and Gold Lake. The County also contains approximately 700 miles of trout bearing streams. These lakes and streams make Sierra County an ideal setting for recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, swimming and boating. Summer recreation creates seasonal employment opportunities in resorts, restaurants and other trade and service industries. Other seasonal employment is provided by local logging operations. The majority of workers are employed in federal, state, and local government. There are only 3.7 people per square mile in Sierra County, compared to

217 people per square mile on average in the rest of California. The US Census Bureau does not identify any metropolitan areas in Sierra County.

Green and heavily timbered, the western half of Sierra County includes the County seat of Downieville, Goodyears Bar, Pike, and Alleghany. Historic buildings are abundant, and there are many fine examples of rough-hewn 49er architecture. It remains today much as it was over 100 years ago when the gold miners worked the rivers and mountains in search of their fortune in gold. The majestic Sierra Buttes, a regional landmark overlooking Sierra City, reach 8,600 feet into the heavens.

Across the 6,700-foot high Yuba Pass lies eastern Sierra County and the towns of Loyalton, Sierraville, Calpine and Sattley in the beautiful Sierra Valley. This 5,000-foot elevation mountain valley reflects life as it used to be in much of the west. Herds of cattle graze amid century-old barns built by early ranchers. Due to its extensive wetlands and location on a major flyway, the Sierra Valley is a noted bird-watching location. Even rare bald eagles are seen here quite frequently. The County shares the town of Verdi with Nevada in its southeastern corner.

Project Description:

The Sierra County Children and Families Commission (SCCFC) and the Sierra County Office of Education (SCOE) have collaborated to design an early childhood developmental learning center that would incorporate a pre-school and child day care center, after-school care programs, and instructional space to conduct classes for child care provider and family support skills for Sierra County residents. The project concept is an outgrowth of an original need by the SCOE to create a special-needs infant and pre-school building in close proximity to the current special-needs education building at Loyalton Elementary School. The collaborative goal is to bring together children with special needs and their typically-developing peers into one setting in order to maximize services and reduce operating costs. One of the primary tenants in the new facility would be the Toddler Towers Day Care Center, with expanded educational support for pre-school children with special needs.

Concurrent with the planning discussions for the Children and Families Center project, the California voters passed the *Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000*. This bond act supports the construction of new public libraries that involve local school districts to increase public access to Internet services, after school homework and remedial education programs, and traditional library services. Sierra County does not have a library according to State standards (D. Shaffer, 1998). Sierra County contracts with Plumas County for library services and either rents or receives donated spaces for four small library stations. Several of the objectives for library projects, including after school programs and increasing family access to instruction support services, coincide with the goals of the Sierra County Children and Families Commission. Consequently, the Commission has agreed to assist the Sierra County library program (operated by Plumas County under a contract for services) in submitting a grant application to construct a new library facility adjoining the Children and Families Center project.

When Sierra County was offered the opportunity to partner with the SCCFC and SCOE in sharing space in the new building to integrate and coordinate public service programs to maximize the benefits to the community, it became apparent that the time for the County Library had finally arrived. Since the available building site was on School District property, it was also a natural fit to incorporate a homework/learning center that could take advantage of the high-speed Internet access hub that was recently installed at the Loyalton Elementary School. Additional partnerships are being pursued with the Feather River Community College to staff and support an Academic Achievement program and satellite courses in the new facility.

The new building is designed to satisfy the following community space needs:

- a circulating library and reading room
- a pre-school and child day care center based on inclusion principles
- after-school care programs
- a homework/family computer center
- Academic Achievement/Learning Center program
- after-school homework support and academic achievement programs
- instructional space to conduct parent and caregiver classes and other community college level classes
- community meeting rooms
- literacy services
- local history archives and research room
- career center resources with Internet access to the California Employment Development Department (EDD) "Cal Job System" database of job listings, résumé posting service, interviewing tips, etc.
- outreach space for health/social services providers

The Sierra County Children and Families Commission has relied on a committee representing the Commission, the SCOE and the Plumas County Librarian to identify potential sites for the proposed building and to establish the space needs for each use. As currently envisioned, the combined facility would be approximately 7,420 square feet with the space evenly divided between the two components. The Committee has determined that the most readily accessible site for the proposed building would be at the Loyalton Elementary School situated between the portable classrooms and the northern property line with the Loyalton City Park. This site would be very convenient for families dropping off their pre-school and school-aged children, and allow more elementary school children to use the library or enter into supervised after-school care programs. An added benefit is the close proximity to recreation facilities, especially for summer-time child-care, and increased visual security for the new skateboard park. Placing the library component on School District property will also help to increase the project ranking in the grant application review. The Governing Board for the School District granted approval to use the Loyalton Elementary School property at their June 11, 2002, meeting.

The following issues, solutions and milestones have occurred that affect the eventual success of completing the proposed Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center Project:

- On April 15, 2002, the Sierra County Children and Families Commission contracted with W. Dean Diederich, AICP to provide project planning, environmental documentation, and support services to move the proposed project from a concept to completion. The Project Planner is responsible for coordinating the selection and work products from the project architect and engineers, and is responsible for completing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and securing project permits from the City of Loyalton and/or Sierra County. Finally, the Project Planner will assist the Plumas County Librarian in completing the necessary background reports to submit the Library Bond Act application.
- On May 21, 2002, the City of Loyalton granted a water and sanitary sewer “will serve” commitment, subject to conditions of approval, to support the proposed project. The “will serve” commitment must be initiated by May 1, 2004. The Sierra County Children and Families Commission has paid the \$2,500 “system modeling” fee to satisfy one of the conditions of the “will serve” letter.
- On June 11, 2002, the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District granted the use of land at the Loyalton Elementary School to allow for the design and construction of both components of the facility to proceed. The appropriate draft and final legal agreements and resolutions of support will be prepared for consideration and approval by the School District Governing Board. The Sierra County Children and Families Commission have agreed to take the lead in preparing the necessary documents and will reimburse the legal costs of the School District as part of the overall project expenses.
- On July 16, 2002, the Sierra County Board of Supervisors agreed to have the Sierra County Children and Families Commission prepare the technical information necessary to submit the application for the Library Bond Act of 2000.
- On September 10, 2002, the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District was provided an status report on the planning activities for the project and discussed the potential uses of the homework center in coordination with the preliminary library plan of action.
- Throughout February and early March 2003, several public meetings were held with the SPJUSD Board, the SCCFC and the Sierra County Board of Supervisors to review the lease and ownership arrangement for the land and the building and to arrive at a consensus on the language for the Cooperative Use Agreement.
- On March 11, 2003, the Loyalton City Council adopted a Negative Declaration of environmental impact in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and adopted a special use permit for the development of a new civic use within the R-1 / Single Family Residential zone, completing all local permitting for the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center.

- On March 18, 2003, the City Council of the City of Loyalton passed a resolution supporting the Sierra County application for a grant under the provisions of the *Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000*.
- On April 17, 2003, the Governing Board of the Feather River College approved and authorized a joint use agreement with the Sierra County Superintendent of Schools / Office of education to operate an Academic Achievement Center within the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center. The joint use agreement allows for instructional support for the homework center activities, as well as conducting classes, testing and counseling for students and community members interested Feather River College programs.
- On July 23, 2003, the State Allocation Board approved the Sierra County Office of Education's grant application to the California Department of Education and the Office of Public School Construction for an "*AB 16 Joint Use Project*" to fund the homework center portion of the Library. the grant award is for a total of \$619,741.
- On December 10, 2003, and previously on March 12, 2003, and the Sierra County Children and Families Commission adopted the Cooperative Use Agreement for the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center, passed a resolution supporting the Sierra County application for a grant under the provisions of the *Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000* and passed a resolution supporting the SCOE grant application to the California Department of Education and the Office of Public School Construction for an "*AB 16 Joint Use Project*" to fund the homework center portion of the Library.
- On December 15, 2003, and previously on March 18, 2003, the Sierra County Board of Supervisors adopted the Cooperative Use Agreement for the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center, passed a resolution supporting the Sierra County application for a grant under the provisions of the *Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000* and authorized the Chair to sign all the application documents on behalf of the County.
- On January 13, 2004, and previously on March 11, 2003, the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District Governing Board adopted the Cooperative Use Agreement for the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center and passed a resolution supporting the Sierra County application for a grant under the provisions of the *Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000*.
- On January 13, 2004, and previously on March 11, 2003, the Sierra County Board of Education authorized the Sierra County Superintendent of Schools to enter into the Cooperative Use Agreement for the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center and endorsed moving forward with the appropriate agreements with Feather River College to submit a grant application to the California Department of Education and the

Office of Public School Construction for an “*AB 16 Joint Use Project*” to secure matching funds for the Library.



Local library supporters!

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - NEEDS ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The planning process for the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center has been a multi-year, multi-agency process that has drawn on the talents and opinions of the residents who will use the facility to create an innovative space for community activities. The original project was conceived as an outgrowth of the initial Needs Assessment report for the newly created Sierra County Children and Families Commission (SCCFC). That report, prepared in August 2000, identified a library as being very useful (3.32/5.0) to support the needs of families with children; this was one of the highest ranked community services, exceeded only by elementary schools (3.32) and a doctor's office (3.44). The SCCFC quickly determined that a new community library and families center would help to fulfill many of the program goals for the Commission.

Sierra County does not have a library according to State standards (D. Shaffer, 1998). Sierra County contracts with Plumas County for library services and either rents or receives donated spaces for four small library stations. The four (4) library stations are located in Alleghany, the County Seat of Downieville, Sierra City, and Loyalton. The County enjoys quality, but minimal library service under the contract with Plumas County, but has always desired to build a permanent library building to provide a community focus and more traditional library setting than the rented spaces offer. The County has had many previous attempts to construct a permanent library in the Loyalton area. In each case, the project fell through due to either difficulties with the chosen site, lack of funding or coordination issues with partner agencies. One such effort in the early 1990s championed for a stand-alone library that was exciting and practical for a small-sized community. Unfortunately, the building was not constructed in Loyalton. Instead, the plans were used to build the new library in the City of Portola (Plumas County). Sierra County has learned from its past mistakes and has undertaken a library planning process that focuses on community need, functional design, and securing adequate funding to complete the project. The biggest lesson learned is that collaboration with other agencies is essential to create a space that can serve multiple uses, integrate service delivery, keep the development costs down, and maximize the utilization by the public.

The Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is intended to serve the needs of all residents throughout Sierra County. As a practical matter, it is difficult for residents from the western portions of the County to visit the new facility on a regular basis due to the long distances over curvy mountain roads. The daily and weekly visitors to the new Library will come from the Sierra Valley communities of Calpine, Sattley, Sierraville, Sierra Brooks, the City of Loyalton, and the ranches spread throughout the Sierra Valley. To seek the input of the residents and service providers of the County, three (3) primary techniques were employed: a Library Interest Survey, focus group meetings and public forums and community design charettes.

The Library Interest Survey was a self-administered form with 27 questions and space for personal comments. Over 500 survey forms were distributed at 13 locations throughout the County and could either be mailed in or turned in where they were first acquired. Staff and volunteers also attended key community events, such as "back-to school" nights, to encourage completion of the forms. Spanish language translators were present at the community events to

assist with the form completion. The community response rate was 221 completed forms, which is approximately 6.2 % of the entire County population and 11.6 % of the Library service area population.

The SCCFC Executive Director, the Plumas County Librarian (serving Sierra County), and the Planning Manager conducted formal and informal focus group meetings to gather input on the programming and design of the new Library space. Over 29 meetings were held between April 2002, and January 2003, to identify how the community views the need for library services, how a library can integrate with other community activities and how the library could be most useful in supporting the educational mission of the School District and the Early Childhood Initiatives and School Readiness Plan for the SCCFC. A Sierra County Children's Summit was held on October 26, 2002, and the proposed Sierra County Library and Children and Families Center was a main topic of discussion with a break-out session for community members to voice their opinions on how the new facility could support the needs of several service agencies and providers.

Two community design charrettes were held in Loyalton and facilitated by the project architect team. Issues of design, appearance, functional relationships between uses, efficiency and durability, and creating a community focus and an inviting place for the public to come and enjoy were all central to the design of the new building. The public was invited and all ideas were explored, debated, verified, and valued until a consensus was reached on how best to create a space that provides quality library service and supports other community uses and activities. Once the architect team translated the ideas onto paper, the residents were offered several forums to view the plans, offer additional refinements, and inform the participating agencies how the new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center will help transform the community and enrich their lives.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Sierra County is socially a close-knit community that relies on familiar associations, word of mouth, and community bulletin boards to get the word out about any event. There are no major media outlets that serve the Sierra County communities. Two newspapers serve the communities in the County; one is a weekly publication and the other is a biweekly publication. Given these circumstances, the Sierra County Children and Families Commission, as the library project coordinating group, chose to conduct an interest survey to get the basic input and concerns from the community to help identify how the new library should be configured and operated. In addition, the SCCFC Executive Director, the Plumas County Librarian (serving Sierra County) and the Planning Manager conducted formal and informal focus group meetings to gather the input necessary to develop a Library Needs Assessment and the related Library Plan of Service.

The Library Interest Survey was a self-administered form with 27 questions and space for personal comments. The survey instrument was pilot tested with the staff at the Loyalton Intermediate School before being distributed to the general public. Over 500 survey forms were distributed at key locations throughout the County and could either be mailed in or turned in where they were first acquired. The Library Interest Survey was distributed through a number of locations including:

- Loyalton City Hall
- Loyalton Senior Citizens Apartment Complex
- Loyalton Seniors Center
- Sierra County Department of Health and Human Services offices
- Sierra County Children and Families Commission office
- Loyalton Elementary School - Parent's back-to-school night
- Loyalton High School - Parent's back-to-school night
- Loyalton High School - Junior and Senior English classes
- Sierra County Branch Libraries (Loyalton, Sierra City & Downieville)
- Sierra County Office of Education
- Loyalton Rotary Club.

Staff and volunteers also attended key community events, such as "back-to school" nights, to encourage completion of the forms. Spanish language translators were present at the community events to assist with the form completion. The community response rate was 221 completed forms, which is approximately 6.2 % of the entire County population and 11.6 % of the Library service area population. The survey respondents represent a broad cross-section of the community, ranging from students to seniors, long-time residents to recent arrivals and library users (65%) to non-users (35%).

The Library Interest Survey and the respondent results are attached at the end of this Needs Assessment report and are further discussed in the "Analysis of Library Service Needs" section of this report. The survey respondents are very supportive of a new library facility to create a focal point to serve the children of the community. Two of the highest support areas identified in the survey were for a homework center and for children's books and reading programs. Judging

from the written comments included in the survey, most respondents feel the new library will be important in bringing new vitality to the community. As two respondents stated:

A new library in Loyalton will improve our quality of life and make our town a more desirable place to live. I hope adult literacy programs will be a part of the new library.

I think that a library will be greatly utilized and appreciated in this community.

There have been several public input opportunities for Sierra County residents to hear and observe what is being proposed in the new multi-use facility and to provide direction and feedback on the design of the building and the programs that it would support. Over 29 meetings were held between April 2002, and January 2003, to identify how the community views the need for library services, how a library can integrate with other community activities, and how the library could be most useful in supporting the educational mission of the School District and the Early Childhood Initiatives and School Readiness Plan for the SCCFC. A Sierra County Children's Summit was held on October 26, 2002, with over 40 participants, and the proposed Sierra County Library and Children and Families Center was a main topic of discussion. A special break-out session was held for community members to voice their opinions on how the new facility could support the needs of several service agencies and providers. Attendees at the various meetings represented a broad cross-section of the Sierra County population.

The following table lists the public presentations and the focus group meetings that have been conducted for the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center project:

**Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center
Community Involvement Meetings**

Date	Meeting Sponsor & Location	Activities
April 15, 2002	Sierra County Children & Families Commission - Loyalton	Preliminary concepts - need for new library space in Loyalton
April 17, 2002	Loyalton Library Station	Tour of existing space with library staff and community members - identification of existing deficiencies.
May 8, 2002	Sierra County Children & Families Commission - Loyalton	Focus Group Discussion - Library programs and supporting goals in the Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan.
May 13, 2002	Sierra County Children & Families Commission / Library working group- Loyalton	Focus Group Discussion - Library space needs by activities & reading materials.
May 15, 2002	Sierra County Children & Families Commission - Loyalton	Commission Update - Library Focus and interest group discussions - existing deficiency and need to proceed.

Section 20440: Appendix 3
Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center

May 21, 2002	Sierra County Board of Supervisors; Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District Governing Board; Loyalton City Council; and Sierra County Children and Families Commission Joint Public Hearing - Loyalton	Public workshop on joint use concept for the proposed library, homework center and children and families center. Authorization from the various boards to proceed with preliminary design at the Loyalton Elementary School site.
June 11, 2002	Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District - Public Hearing - Loyalton	Agenda Action Item authorizing use of School District property (LES) for project planning, design and grant application submittals.
June 12, 2002	Sierra County Children & Families Commission - Loyalton	Project update - public participation session - planning for the new multi-use facility.
June 26, 2002	Sierra County Public Works, County Auditor, County Librarian, County Health Officer - Downieville	Focus Group Meeting - County Agency participation, issues, and project objectives.
July 3, 2002	Mary Genasci, Sierra County Superintendent of Schools and Sierra County Board of Supervisor Bill Nunes - Loyalton	Focus Group Meeting - educational objectives and County library objectives.
July 9, 2002	Children Summit Planning Meeting - Loyalton	Interest Group Meeting - shared objectives between children advocacy and service programs and library joint use facility.
July 10, 2002	Sierra County Children & Families Commission - Loyalton	Project update - public participation session - planning for the new multi-use facility.
July 16, 2002	Sierra County Board of Supervisors meeting - Loyalton	Project update - progress on planning for the multi-use facility, including operational activities after building opening.
August 8, 2002	Rotary Club Meeting - Loyalton	Project Overview, community interest and needs, questions and answers on potential uses of the building.
August 9, 2002	Children Summit Planning Meeting - Loyalton	Interest Group Meeting - shared objectives between children advocacy and service programs and library joint use facility.
August 27, 2002	Sierra County Children & Families Commission - Loyalton	Project update - public participation session - planning for the new multi-use facility.
September 17, 2002	Loyalton Elementary School - Back To School Night	Administer Library Interest Survey and public question and answers session.

September 20, 2002	<p>Penny Berry, Site Administrator, Loyalton Elementary School</p> <p>Mary Genasci, Sierra County Superintendent of Schools</p> <p>Linda Guffin, Sierra County Office of Education, Birth to 5 Special Needs Teacher</p> <p>Charlene Kreeger, Program Manager, Child Development Corp.</p> <p>Scott McCallum, Sierra County Office of Education, Special Projects Manager</p> <p>Margaret Miles, Plumas County Librarian (serving Sierra County)</p> <p>Brooks Mitchell, Sierra County Supervisor - District 4</p> <p>Rich Swanson, Ph.D., Superintendent, Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District</p> <p>Pat Whitley, Sierra County Supervisor - District 5</p> <p>Carolyn Widman, Chair, Toddler Towers Board</p> <p>Gloria Wyeth, Executive Director, SCCFC</p>	Focus Group Meeting - space and operational needs in the new library facility
October 9, 2002	Sierra County Children & Families Commission - Loyalton	Project update - public participation session - planning for the new multi-use facility.
October 17, 2002	Loyalton High School - Back To School Night	Administer Library Interest Survey and public question and answers session.
October 26, 2002	Children's Summit - Loyalton	Day-long Community Workshops on children advocacy and service programs and library joint use facility. Administer Library Interest Survey and public question and answers session.
November 12, 2002	Mary Genasci, Sierra County Superintendent of Schools	Individual Interview - Library Facility and program opportunities for alternative education services.
November 18, 2002	Open Community Forum - Library Joint Use Facility Design Charette - Loyalton	Architect facilitated design charette to identify space needs, configurations, affinities, etc., for a multi-use building.
November 19, 2002	Sierra County Arts Council - Sierra City	Project update - public participation session - planning for the new multi-use facility.

December 2, 2002	Mary Genasci, Sierra County Superintendent of Schools and Rich Swanson, Superintendent, Sierra Plumas Joint Unified School District	Individual Interviews - Library Facility and program opportunities for pre-school and K-12 education services.
December 3, 2002	Open Community Forum - Library Joint Use Facility Design Charette - Loyalton	Architect facilitated design charette to identify space needs, configurations, affinities, etc., for a multi-use building.
December 17, 2002	Sierra County Board of Supervisors - Loyalton	Project update - progress on planning for the multi-use facility, including space design and allocation for library related activities.
January 8, 2003	Sierra County Children & Families Commission - Loyalton	Project update - public participation session - preliminary architectural floor plan for the new multi-use facility.
January 14, 2003	Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District Governing Board - Loyalton	Project update - public participation session - preliminary architectural floor plan for the new multi-use facility.
January 16, 2003	Rotary Club - Loyalton	Project update - preliminary architectural floor plan for the new multi-use facility.
January 16, 2003	Friends of Sierra Valley Community Library (interest group) - Loyalton	Project update - preliminary architectural floor plan for the new multi-use facility.

As indicated by the meeting list above, SPJUSD and SCOE staff and administrators have been actively involved in the planning process. Mary Genasci, SCOE Superintendent, joined the Board of SCCFC early in this process and has been present at most meetings. Rich Swanson, SPJUSD Superintendent, and Ms. Penny Berry, Site Administrator for Loyalton Elementary School, have been present at several meetings and provided substantial information about the needs of SPJUSD students and considerations regarding placement of a public facility on school property. Meeting participants have also included parents, teachers and students at all grade levels.

Two community design charettes were held in Loyalton and facilitated by the project architect team. Issues of design, appearance, functional relationships between uses, efficiency and durability, and creating a community focus and an inviting place for the public to come and enjoy were all central to the design of the new building. Everyone in the community was invited, and all ideas were explored, debated, verified, and valued until a consensus was reached on how best to create a space that provides quality library space that supports other community uses and activities. The temporary library station in Loyalton has had a small but dedicated Friends of the Library group; several of them have been active participants in focus meetings and charettes. The two (2) design meetings had 15 to 20 community members in attendance, including the Loyalton Elementary School principal, parents, and students from all the local schools, resulting in a building design that has received strong support from the community.

Attached to this report is a copy of the flyer posted throughout the community inviting the public to participate in the design charettes for the new building and the typical focus group questions that were used to ensure that the proposed building would help to meet the program needs of the participating agencies and the affected community. Due to the small nature and familiarity of the Sierra Valley community and the need to maintain a degree of confidence and confidentiality for the focus group participants, the comments and responses have not been summarized in this report. Significant budgetary pressures for the School District have led to several comments regarding the construction of a new facility when so many other needs are not addressed, even though there is no direct financial contribution from SPJUSD. Where appropriate, common focus group ideas have been cited, such as the desire of school administrators and teachers to have a homework center to support the needs of their students.

All the teachers at the elementary, intermediate, and high school sites in the Sierra Valley were provided notice of the design charette meetings so they could personally attend and could also encourage their students and/or their parents to attend.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - COMMUNITY ANALYSIS

The planned construction and operation of the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is a collaborative effort between Sierra County, the Sierra County Children and Families Commission (SCCFC - Prop. 10 Commission), the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District (SPJUSD), and the Sierra County Superintendent of Schools - Sierra County Office of Education (SCOE). All four agencies have a strong commitment to providing quality service to the residents of Sierra County and recognize the value of coordinating and integrating service to maximize the value of very limited tax and revenue resources. Sierra County is a highly desirable place to live, but the employment opportunities are extremely limited, and the ability to gain a post-high school education is hampered by the lack of nearby colleges. Sierra County values education, as evidenced by the strong State Academic Performance Index (API) rankings for the four schools in the library service area, and the higher number of high school graduates compared to the statewide average. Unfortunately, the County lags in the number of college graduates, which impacts efforts to create new economic opportunities in the area.

Sierra County contracts for library service with the Plumas County Library. The Plumas County Library currently operates four library stations throughout Sierra County, all of which are in rental spaces housing small, rotating collections of books. Sierra County has the second lowest population base in the State with very few local businesses to support a sufficient tax base. Consequently, library service, as is the case with many other governmental services, is difficult to fund above minimum service levels. The County has been trying to build a library to meet community needs for 10 years. It is a testimony to the County Board of Supervisors that they have made the effort to consistently contract for library services since the 1960s, despite the low tax revenue base for the County. The service population for the proposed project is currently 2,037 and is expected to increase to 2,659 by 2040. This includes a current student population of approximately 630.

All four of the participating agencies have expended considerable time and staffing resources in pursuit of the proposed project and have held numerous meetings with the respective boards to solicit public input and demonstrate commitment and support for the project concept. All four agencies have taken action to adopt the necessary cooperative use agreement to construct the building, define ownership and management of the building, and to operate their respective programs within the new facility. In addition, the City of Loyalton, while not a participant in the ownership or use of the building, has been very supportive in the permit approval process and providing water and sewer utility “will serve” commitments for the project. Since the new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is to be constructed within the City limits, the City Council is the Lead Agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance. The City Council has independently evaluated the environmental consequences of the new facility and has determined that a CEQA Negative Declaration is appropriate for the project. Numerous community agencies will utilize and benefit from a library in the Sierra Valley.

Demographically, Sierra County is an aging population, with lower than statewide average household income. The cost of living in this remote mountain and high valley community is tempered by lower than average housing costs; but the lack of public transportation and the long

driving distances to access even basic services does impact the residents. Enrollments in the four (4) schools in the library service area have shown a general upward trend since 1980, but recent enrollment trends show a slight leveling off, and possibly a decline. The loss of a major employer in late 2000 - early 2001 is starting to show impacts on the County. The person-per-household size in the County is higher than the statewide average, showing a greater percentage of school age children in the local households. Sierra County is a great place to raise children, despite the lack of typical urban/suburban services, and people are making a choice to stay and educate their children in a high-ranking academic performance school system.

Sierra County does not have a large percentage of English Language Learners (ELL), but it is difficult to provide services even for this small population base. More striking is the high percentage of low-literacy adults, given the County's lack of ethnic diversity. The Sierra County Literacy Program and other service agencies are helping this group, and the School District is able to help ELL students by the fifth grade to be fully successful; however, a stronger Library and Literacy Program presence will help this group to have even better success, especially in securing better paying employment opportunities.

Sierra County has a lower poverty rate than the statewide average, but the unemployment rates are higher, and there are significant population numbers that are receiving either reduced or free school meals or are participants in the CalWORKS program. The SCCFC Needs Assessment (2000) identified a significant number of parents that cannot afford, or are not providing, adequate age-appropriate reading materials for their young children. The new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is a place where services can be effectively provided for families with children. The Library resources will be conveniently placed so community residents can take advantage of reading material that can help improve their employment opportunities, increase general knowledge or just provide for some relaxation and enjoyment.

COMMUNITY ANALYSIS

a. Governmental Agencies

The proposed Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is the culmination of several public agencies recognizing that a new, collaborative service delivery model is essential to contain costs while providing superior programs to the residents of this small community. The key public agency participants in this project include educational, public health, children and families services, and library service agencies. The participating agencies and their roles are described below.

Sierra County:

Sierra County government has a number of departments and individuals who have had a significant role in bringing the concept of a multi-use library facility to fruition. The two primary agencies that will have a direct presence in the building include the Library and the Health and Human Services Department.

Sierra County currently does not own or have a permanent library facility anywhere in the County. The County contracts with the Plumas County Library system to provide circulation, delivery and staffing for the four (4) rental library stations. The combined space for these four locations totals approximately 1,600 square feet with very little seating and reading space for patrons. There is a distinct dichotomy of services between Plumas County libraries and the temporary stations in Sierra County. The proposed new Sierra Valley Library is approximately 3,579 square feet appropriately designed for the circulating collections, reference materials, local history and historical documents, homework center and academic achievement activities, Literacy Program, media resources, Internet computers, and comfortable reading spaces for the County.

In addition to the Library space, Sierra County is participating in the development of a community health outreach and exam room in the Children and Families Center portion of the building. This space will be utilized by the Department of Health and Human Services staff to schedule monthly screenings and exams, and periodic health fairs for the community. Target client groups that can benefit from this service include the infants, toddlers, and school age population who will be in the new building or at the local schools. Parent wellness classes and instruction for home-based health care providers and child care providers will also be conducted out of the screening room and the adjacent meeting room. Mr. William Demers, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the agency staff have met with the project sponsors and the architect team to ensure that the space is adequate, functional, and beneficial for the clients to be served.

Various Sierra County departments and agencies have also participated in the design and implementation of the proposed Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center, including Mr. Tim Beals and the staff of the Public Works, Planning and Building Department. Mr. Beals has provided valuable feedback on construction and operational considerations for County buildings. The Sierra County Auditor, Mr. Van Maddox, has also helped to identify

operational and maintenance requirements for the new building and will be providing support staff to the committee created under a joint cooperative use agreement that will operate the facility for the four participating agencies.

Plumas County:

The mission statement for the Plumas County Library system, which includes the Sierra County library stations, states:

The Library provides free access to printed, audio-visual and electronic forms of information, and educates the community as to the uses and value of its resources. Serving as a gateway to knowledge beyond its collection, the Library is a reflection of the community, a gathering of its knowledge, culture and information.

The Plumas County Librarian, Ms. Margaret Miles, provides the administrative support for the library stations in Sierra County. Ms. Miles and her staff have directly participated in the design and review of the proposed library facility and the programs that will be accommodated in the facility. As part of the contract, Ms. Miles serves as a consultant to the Sierra County Board of Supervisors, which established a two-member subcommittee to oversee the development of the library project. Supervisor Pat Whitley and Supervisor Brooks Mitchell, along with the full membership of the Board, have been extremely supportive of the development of a permanent library facility in the County. They recognize the benefit of utilizing the space to support integrated service delivery for all County residents. The Board of Supervisors has final authority and oversight for the design and operation of the Library portion of the proposed building.

Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District (SPJUSD):

The Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District serves the entire Sierra County, plus the communities of Vinton, Chilcoot and Beckwourth located in the Plumas County area of the Sierra Valley. The SPJUSD school campuses include Pliocene Ridge (K-12), Downieville (K-12), Sierraville (K-2), Loyalton Elementary (K-5), Loyalton Intermediate (6-8), and Loyalton High (9-12). The district also runs continuation, alternative education, community day schools, and independent study programs.

The SPJUSD has a direct role in the successful completion and operation of the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center. The District Governing Board agreed to the use of District land to construct the new building, recognizing the central location and role the Loyalton Elementary School site plays to the community. Without the availability of the District land, it is doubtful an adequate site could be located with adequate infrastructure, space for on-site parking or in such close proximity to the majority of residents in the Sierra Valley.

The SPJUSD is also a major participant in the use of the new library. The District is responsible for providing appropriate remedial education programs for students who are at risk of failing their core subjects or are struggling in their academic performance. The District is also obligated to find intervention programs that offer instructional methods that differ from the classroom

setting. In response to these broad mandates, the District has recognized the need to work with the Sierra County Office of Education to establish a centralized homework center/academic achievement center where students can go for after school remedial help and/or have access to library resources to complete homework assignments. The new homework center will allow the District to maximize the efficiency and use of instructional aides and certificated teachers combined with state-of-the-art resources to help struggling students become engaged in learning. For advanced students, the new academic achievement programs will provide after school resources that currently are not available in the community.

Future uses of the library/homework center by the School District and SCOE include the possible use by summer school and Saturday classes, and the ability to schedule alternative education classes for adults and non-traditional students. Finally, the new meeting room will further expand the space opportunities for educational programs, including classes and community meetings for parents and students.

The key members of the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District who have participated in the vision and development of the new building include the current and past members of the Governing Board (see the Acknowledgements, page 3), and the District Superintendent, Rich Swanson, Ph.D. Other key participants include Ms. Penny Berry, Site Administrator for both the Loyalton Elementary School and the Sierraville Elementary School, and her staff of teachers, instructional aides, and maintenance personnel. Dr. Swanson and Ms. Berry have been closely involved with the placement and design of the new building to ensure an appropriate fit with the current use at the Loyalton Elementary School while avoiding potential conflict with the instructional goals of the site.

Several District employees have also provided significant support in developing the concept of bringing the multi-agency, multi-use facility together into a seamless, integrated fit. A vital contribution will be the support of Mr. Gary Habeeb, Technology Coordinator, who will establish and ensure integration of the high-speed Internet access portal in the new building with the existing hub located in the Loyalton Elementary School building.

Sierra County Office of Education (SCOE):

The Sierra County Office of Education (SCOE) is responsible for providing educational services for residents with special needs within the County and School District. The SCOE also provides program oversight for State categorical programs that are provided to school districts within the County. Sierra County Office of Education's mission statement declares:

The purpose of Sierra County Office of Education is to support the educational process within the County and assist in developing the potential of each student so that he/she will be educated, informed and prepared to assume full responsibility as an adult. Sierra County Office of Education will provide leadership and resources in order to promote cooperation and effective communication among staff, students and community members.

The SCOE was one of the first agencies to see the value and importance of a multiple use facility to serve the residents of Sierra County. Under the leadership of Superintendent William Rouse, the SCOE staff identified a need to create a space where toddlers with special needs could play and interact with their typically-developing peers while receiving the necessary support services to prepare for school. The SCOE recognized that the “least restrictive” environment for their clients would be a pre-school integrated with the program offered by the Toddler Towers Day Care Center, the primary child care operator in the Sierra Valley area. Unfortunately, the current Toddler Towers rented space is too small to support additional children and is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Toddler Towers is also physically removed from the Loyalton Elementary School which limits their ability to provide after school care for children enrolled in the school. The solution was to find a new space or build a facility that could serve both Toddler Towers Day Care and the SCOE pre-school program needs.



Existing Toddler Towers Day Care Center, Loyalton, CA

The SCOE has an existing special education building at the Loyalton Elementary School where pre-school programs are conducted, but the space is inadequate for the enrollment levels, and cannot handle an inclusion program with typically-developing children. The current special education building space is so inadequate that a service hallway is used for programmed activities.



Existing SCOE Special Education Building, Loyalton Elementary School

With the untimely death of Mr. Rouse during the early stages of the project design, the new County Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Mary Genasci, continued to provide SCOE support for the new building. Mrs. Genasci also embraced the inclusion of the new community library into the building design, recognizing the value of serving all County residents with an educational facility with world-class access to books, reference materials, and high-speed Internet service. The SCOE will be able to schedule and program adult and alternate educational services consistent with their mission statement and help support the School District homework center activities through categorical funding sources.

The SCOE is developing partnerships with the Feather River Community College to provide staffing for the homework center and academic achievement programs to assist the SPJUSD core remedial efforts. In turn, Feather River Community College will be able to schedule satellite classes in the new facility, especially early-childhood development certificate classes that support the SCCFC goals and mandate.

Sierra County Children and Families Commission (SCCFC):

The Sierra County Children and Families Commission (SCCFC) is one of the original sponsors of the proposed building. The SCCFC was created as a result of California's Proposition 10 in December 1998, to support children 0-5 years of age and their families. SCCFC works in partnership with the California Children and Families Commission. SCCFC's intent is to: *facilitate the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of services to enhance optimal early childhood development. It is the intent of the Commission to promote and develop services in the areas of child care, health care, enrichment programs, early intervention programs, and parent education for children and parents of children from zero (including prenatal) to five years of age.* The proposed Children and Families Center part of this project will provide the infrastructure and atmosphere for this endeavor.

In August 2000, the SCCFC conducted two surveys to support its strategic planning; one was a survey for parents/caregivers of children 0-5 years old, and the other was a survey of service

providers. The goal was to reach as many members of the target population as possible, using combined strategies of holding drop-in center events and door-to-door outreach in very remote and sparsely populated areas. As a result, approximately 61% of parents were surveyed. The community survey included 95 questions in the three content areas of Health/Dental Care, Child Care and School Readiness.

The service provider survey was conducted as a personal interview containing open-ended questions constructed to derive a list of services available in the county and to determine the service providers' needs and their perspectives regarding the needs of County children 0-5 years of age and their families.

Parents identified the following as their most pressing needs (bold indicates needs that will be addressed via the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center project):

1. **medical services** (education, screening and referral will be part of the program)
2. public transportation
3. **access to quality child care**
4. **services for children with special needs**
5. **parenting classes/education**
6. support and assistance from family members
7. **educational and recreational opportunities for young children**
8. **information about child development and how to raise children**

Service providers identified the following areas as the most pressing:

1. access to affordable dental care, **parent education regarding dental hygiene and dental care for children** (education, screening and referral will be part of the program)
2. **access to effective speech therapy program**
3. **improved nutrition among 0-5 year olds, parent education regarding nutrition**
4. **an innovative program to empower parents and families to utilize existing services**
5. **insurance: 34.8% of families have inadequate or no health insurance** (access to Healthy Families insurance is funded by SCCFC and will be part of the program.)

Based on these identified needs, the SCCFC adopted the following strategy (among others):

STRATEGY/ACTIVITY	RELATED NEEDS/ GAPS	STRATEGIC RESULT(S)	OBJECTIVE(S)	POSSIBLE INDICATOR(S)
Create a Children’s Center in Loyalton to house child-related services, child care center, pre-school program, library/literacy services , space for family/community activities, parenting and recreational programs and activities; outdoor space for playground and family/community events and activities, etc. Locate suitable site for purchase or lease.	Fragmented services	Improved Systems for Families: Families can identify a single point of entry to all services they need to support their children; Investments are directed toward effective integrative practices	Increased service integration Increased accessibility of services Increased awareness of services	Number of services collaborating to provide integrated services, coordinated service delivery, shared information, and non-duplication of effort; Number of families who have access to services

The SCCFC is operating as the project manager for the design and construction of the proposed Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center. Ms. Gloria Wyeth, Executive Director for the Commission, has the lead role in managing the project. The SCCFC has met almost every month since its inception and has endorsed the proposed projects through a variety of actions including budget document, contracts with architects, attorneys, planning professionals, and related services. The SCCFC is the applicant on behalf of Sierra County for all permits, environmental documents and grant and foundation funding requests.

SCCFC will operate the Children and Family Center wing of the facility, which will include a state-of-the-art child care center; space for health outreach, education and screenings for children and their families; and the SCCFC office, which will be headquarters for a comprehensive school readiness program that provides education and training opportunities for parents, caregivers, teachers and other professionals who work with young children. Much of this training will be conducted in the common meeting/training room. SCCFC's school readiness strategies include use of the children's library, story hours, and other programming to develop pre-literacy and other school readiness skills for young children in an integrated program involving all center and home-based child care providers as well as the kindergarten teachers.

City of Loyalton:

The City of Loyalton is a general law city incorporated in 1901. The City exercises planning and land use regulatory control for any development project within the corporate boundaries. The City is the “Lead Agency” under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the review and adoption of an appropriate environmental documentation for this type of construction project. The City’s adopted General Plan designation for the project site is

Public Services and the zoning is “R-1/Single Family Residential,” which allows for the establishment of civic and educational uses on a parcel with the approval of a special use permit. Sierra County Department of Planning and Building provides support staff to the City for planning review matters. The special use permit application for the proposed Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center was submitted to Sierra County on January 3, 2003, and a public hearing on the CEQA documentation and special use permit was held on March 11, 2003. The City Council adopted a Negative Declaration of environmental impacts for the project and also adopted the Special Use Permit with a list of standard conditions, including the connection to the City water and wastewater treatment system and completion of the project as represented in the plans.

The City operates a municipal water and wastewater treatment facility and provides service to all parcels within the City. The project proponents submitted and received a “will serve” commitment for the proposed building on May 21, 2002, subject to compliance with standard conditions of approval. The most significant aspect of the service commitment is the need to implement portions of the City’s Water and Wastewater Master Plan by upgrading and installing an 8-inch water line and two new fire hydrants to provide fire suppression water to the existing Loyalton Elementary School as well as the new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center building.

While the City is not a direct participant in the new building, the City Council has been informed of the site selection and design of the multi-purpose facility. The proposed Center location is very convenient for residents who are also using the various amenities at the City Park and will help in providing direct observation for safety and security at the adjacent skateboard park. The new building site completes and complements a community focal point around the civic uses already established on Beckwith Road.

The key City of Loyalton participants in the review and support of the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center include Former Mayor Milt Gottardi and the rest of the Council (see Acknowledgements), Patsy Jardin (City Clerk /Controller), Ray Kruth, P.E. (Contract City Engineer), and the utility system staff.

b. School Agencies

The Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District and the Sierra County Office of Education are the only school agencies in Sierra County. There currently are no private schools operating in Sierra County for K-12 students. There are several students throughout the County who are either on independent study programs, are home schooled or are enrolled in Charter school programs through neighboring counties. Neither the SPJUSD nor SCOE have accurate figures for Sierra County school-aged children not enrolled in the District’s programs.

The adopted mission statement for the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District is:

Our purpose is to educate all students—to provide each student with successful learning experiences through innovative programs that develop positive intellectual, social and

physical outcomes which promote self-directed, lifelong learning and the ability to make responsible decisions.

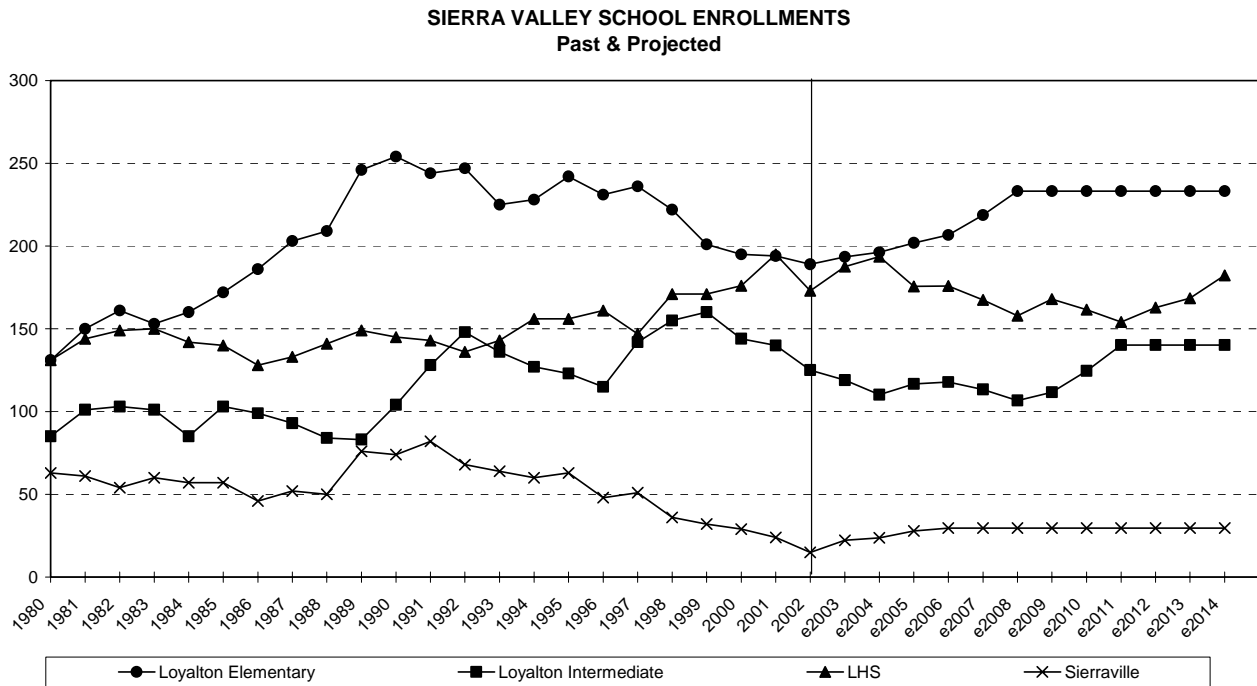
To achieve this mission, the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District, in partnership with parents and our richly varied communities, will provide a challenging, comprehensive and state-of-the-art education program delivered and supported by a highly competent staff and coordinated with community resources.

The four schools that will have the most direct access to the new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center, including the homework center, include the Sierraville School and the three Loyalton schools. The district-wide enrollment for the past five years (1998-2003) and the four mentioned schools are listed in the table below. The past and projected enrollment totals for the four schools are show in the chart below.

Sierra Plumas Joint Unified School District
School Enrollment Totals

Year	District-wide Enrollment	Sierraville	Loyalton Elementary	Loyalton Intermediate	Loyalton High School	Sierra Valley Totals
1998	795	36	222	155	171	584
1999	761	32	201	160	171	564
2000	726	29	195	144	176	544
2001	721	24	194	140	195	553
2002	676	15	189	125	173	502

Source: SPJUSD CBEDS report; District-wide does not include Charter School enrollments.



note: Enrollment projection based on previous year plus growth rate extended over time. Estimates past 2008 have a low confidence value.

Each of the District's schools has a small library that occupies a classroom within the school building. The SPJUSD has adopted a Library Plan for the 2000 to 2003 timeframe. This plan identifies the following issues:

Research shows that the size of a library media center's staff and collection is the best school predictor of academic achievement, and that children who had access to school libraries read more than students with access only to classroom collections of books; and that students who read more, read better. It is essential that each of our schools has an up-to-date library media center stocked with a minimum of 20 up-to-date, relevant, enticing books per student, and other materials that support current curriculum, standards and frameworks. Each school will use its state library money to achieve this.

Six schools housed at permanent sites have libraries. These libraries are barely adequate to meet the educational needs of the students. However, the state library money and Title VI funds have provided the means to begin upgrading the collections, and providing computers for research in our libraries. All are staffed by library technicians who are only part-time.

Goal 1: To provide the staffing necessary to implement an effective, library media program.

Goal 2: To provide more effective student learning through a collaborative process for planning, teaching, and assessment.

Goal 3: To ensure that all students in the district have access to equally effective library media programs.

Goal 4: To provide up-to-date relevant resources in a variety of formats and technologies to meet the diverse needs of all learners.

Goal 5: To ensure ongoing administrative commitment for effective library media programs.

Goal 6: To involve parents and community members in the development and support of library media programs for improved student learning.

Goal 7: To ensure that the library media program serves as an essential catalyst for learning and teaching through comprehensive plans, policies, and ongoing program assessment.

The current number of books and Internet access computer terminals in each of the libraries at the schools in the Sierra Valley are listed in the table below:

School	Number of Books	Books per Student (2002 CBEDS)	Internet Computer Terminals for Student Use in Library.	Internet Computer per Student (2002 CBEDS)
Loyalton Elementary	8,000	42.3	1	0.005
Loyalton Intermediate	3,700	29.6	2	0.016
Loyalton High School	6,000	34.7	5	0.029
Sierraville Elementary	1,300	86.7	2	0.133

While the school libraries appear to have a sufficient number of books on hand to meet the reading needs of the students, several of the books are donated and are fairly old and are in poor shape. More importantly, the Internet access computer to student ratio is extremely poor, especially for the Intermediate and High School students (grades 6-12). A more appropriate goal would be one terminal for every ten students. There are other Internet access computers spread throughout the classrooms, but their usage is limited to non-class hours or for in class activities. More computers are needed for student projects and homework assignments that require time to complete after the school buildings have closed for the day. The District currently does not have the resources to allocate additional media staff to four schools.

Ms. Penny Berry, the Site Administrator for the Loyalton Elementary School and the Sierraville Elementary School, has confirmed that there is no immediate need or desire to move the School's library operation into the new Sierra Valley Library. Therefore, while this is a "joint venture joint use" project between Sierra County and the SPJUSD for the computer center/homework center, family literacy center and shared electronics and telecommunication uses, it is not intended as a "Co-location joint use" under the provisions of the Library Bond Act

of 2000. Since all SPJUSD libraries close at the end of the school day, the new Library will fill the void for students' access to books and reference resources when they are trying to complete their homework assignments. The SPJUSD will also support the use of the new Homework Center by placing appropriate staff and tutoring volunteers in the facility so that students from all the local schools can continue to receive instructional support.

c. Community Organizations

In addition to the four participating agencies, the following community agencies and organizations are expected to utilize and benefit from the new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center project:

Organization	Service Need
Toddler Towers Day Care Center	Adequate space to serve a growing child care population. Access to library children's reading materials and space to conduct literacy programs, story-telling and plays.
Sierra County Literacy Program	Quiet & confidential classroom or meeting space to conduct adult literacy programs. Access to a wide variety of appropriate and interesting reading material to help readers progress in their skills and confidence.
Sierra County Friends of the Library	Sierra Valley Friends of the Library have supported the new library project and intend to raise community awareness of library services. The Friends of the Library will be provided shelf space for an ongoing book sale.
Sierra County Child Abuse Council	Meeting and training space for Council programs. Access to reference and research materials to support the Council activities and clients' informational needs.
Feather River Community College	Space to conduct Academic Achievement programs that support high school students' eventual transition to college-level course work, remedial support tutors, and mentor programs for at risk students. Space will also be scheduled for satellite course offerings, especially for early-childhood care classes.
Sierra County Historical Society	Adequate space to store and display print and pictorial historic records and documents from the early development of Sierra County. The local history room in the new Library will help provide access for both scholarly and general interest research into the stories and values of the pioneers of the Sierras.
Child Development Corps.	Meeting and training space for Corps. programs. Access to reference and research materials to support the Corps. activities and clients informational needs. Specific need for scheduled trainings in meeting room to meet the goals of the School Readiness Plan; part of the Prop 10 Commission 4-year plan for training for anyone who interacts with children.

Children System of Care	Health Department - sponsored agency to support families at risk with additional life-skills training and emotional support. Programs will use meeting room and utilize library resources.
Sierra County Arts Council (SCAC)	The SCAC will provide art displays throughout the new building under their Arts in Public Places and the Young Artists in Public Places programs. In addition, the SCAC is interested in using the meeting room and other public spaces for a variety of art and artist projects, including poetry readings, juried art contests, artist workshops, and small venue performances. The SCAC board will also conduct their public business meetings in the Library meeting room.
Sierra County Local Coordinating Council (LCC) - Tobacco Education Outreach Program	The Sierra County Local Coordinating Council (LCC) has provided grant funds to extend the hours of operation at the Sierra County library stations and has placed anti-tobacco and “quit smoking” information in prominent display. The new Library will provide meeting room space for LCC scheduled activities. The Library staff will work with the LCC to establish a Young Adult Advisory Committee to provide input for teen programming.

There are several other organizations and clubs that will benefit from the new community library building who may develop regular meeting dates using the meeting room or other portions of the library. Potential interest groups include quilting and crafts societies, reading circles, Elderly Care Provider Council, gardening clubs, and youth sporting and service groups such as the Boy Scouts Troop 60. The new library will also benefit the “gifted and talented education” (GATE) program for the School District by offering a site where these students can meet and discuss common interests, projects and problems outside the traditional school setting.

d. Demography

Population Characteristics

The Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center will be built in Loyalton, but is intended to serve the need of all County residents. The Sierra Valley region includes the incorporated City of Loyalton, as well as the rural communities of Calpine, Sierraville, Sattley, and Sierra Brooks. A number of ranches are also disbursed throughout the Valley. Unfortunately, accurate census data is not aggregated for these smaller communities, so the Countywide totals are presented where appropriate. The following table shows the population distribution throughout the County from the 1990 Census.

**1990 Sierra County Population by Place
COMMUNITY POPULATION PERCENTAGE**

Sierra County	3,318	100%
<i>East Sierra County</i>	<i>2,028</i>	<i>61.2%</i>
Calpine	230	6.9%
Loyalton, City Limits	931	28.1%
Loyalton, Outside	205	6.2%
Sattley	43	1.3%
Sierra Brooks	240	7.2%
Sierraville	116	3.5%
Verdi	128	3.9%
Outside Community Areas	135	4.1%
<i>West Sierra County</i>	<i>1,290</i>	<i>38.8%</i>
Alleghany	85	2.6%
Bassetts	64	1.9%
Downieville	379	11.4%
Goodyears Bar	64	1.9%
Pike	78	2.4%
Sierra City	497	15.0%
Outside Community Areas	123	3.7%
<i>Source: Planning Concepts, 1994 Sierra County General Plan</i>		
Proposed Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center Service Area		
Calpine	230	6.9%
Loyalton, City Limits	931	28.1%
Loyalton, Outside	205	6.2%
Sattley	43	1.3%
Sierra Brooks	240	7.2%
Sierraville	116	3.5%
Outside Community Areas	135	4.1%
1990 Census Total	1900	57.30%

Overall, there has been very little change in the distribution of population throughout the County between the 1990 and the 2000 Census since no major housing developments have occurred to affect a change. For practical travel purposes (i.e., travel time less than 45 minutes), the immediate service area of the new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center would include East Sierra County, excluding the Verdi community. The 1990 base population for this immediate service area for the library facility is 1,900. Extending this sub-population as a percent of the 2000 Census Countywide total of 3,555 yields a service area population of approximately 2,037 residents. The following table shows the estimated and projected service area population for the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center utilizing the 1994 breakdowns for each community.

**Sierra Valley Library Service Area
Past and Projected Population**

Year	County Population	Sierra Valley Library Service Area Population (57.3% of County)
1970	2,365	n/a
1980	3,073	1761
1990	3,318	1,900
2000	3,555	2,037
2010	3,800	2,177
2020	4,060**	2,326
2030	4,340**	2,487
2040	4,640**	2,659

sources: US Census, CA Dept. of Finance, Sierra County General Plan

*** Note: CA Dept. of Finance model does not anticipate any change in county population after 2010 due to the sensitivity of the model. Growth rate (6.89%) from 2000 to 2010 applied to 2020 and to 2020 to 2040.*

Sierra County lost a major employer in the community (Sierra Pacific Industries - Loyalton Lumber Division, 2001) which resulted in the relocation of several families from the area. Fortunately, houses offered for sale sold quickly to families from the Truckee area who have been moving into the Sierra Valley for more affordable housing opportunities. This trend is expected to continue at its current, steady pace which helps to support the modest growth figures shown above.

Families with students who live in the Plumas County portion of Sierra Valley and attend the Loyalton schools are in the library service area for the Plumas County Library System and are not included in the projected population to utilize the new Sierra Valley Library. It is likely that these students (approximately 30 students) and their families will utilize the homework center and/or visit the Library for various school projects and recreational reading due to its convenient location compared to the libraries in Reno or Portola, but the service calculations do not include this small group of individuals.

Overall County Statistics:

The following tables summarizes a number of key population and socioeconomic statistics for Sierra County, with comparisons to California and the United States. Comparable information is not available for either the City of Loyalton or the aggregate Sierra Valley area.

General Characteristics	Sierra County	Percent	% of U.S.	California	Percent	US Values
Total population	3,555	100.0	100%	33,871,648	100.0	281,421,906
Male	1,795	50.5	49.1%	16,874,892	49.8	138,053,563
Female	1,760	49.5	50.9%	16,996,756	50.2	143,368,343
Median Age (years)	43.7	(X)	35.3	33.3	(X)	35.3
Under 5 years	147	4.1	6.8%	2,486,981	7.3	19,175,798
18 years and over	2,725	76.7	74.3%	24,621,819	72.7	209,128,094
65 years and over	629	17.7	12.4%	3,595,658	10.6	34,991,753
One race - Total	3,468	97.6	97.6%	32,264,002	95.3	274,595,678
White	3,348	94.2	75.1%	20,170,059	59.5	211,460,626
Black or African American	7	0.2	12.3%	2,263,882	6.7	34,658,190
American Indian and Alaska Native	67	1.9	0.9%	333,346	1.0	2,475,956
Asian	6	0.2	3.6%	3,697,513	10.9	10,242,998
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	3	0.1	0.1%	116,961	0.3	398,835
Some other race	37	1.0	5.5%	5,682,241	16.8	15,359,073
Two or more races	87	2.4	2.4%	1,607,646	4.7	6,826,228
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	213	6.0	12.5%	10,966,556	32.4	35,305,818
Average household size	2.32	(X)	2.59	2.87	(X)	2.59
Average family size	2.83	(X)	3.14	3.43	(X)	3.14
Total housing units	2,202	100.0	100.0%	12,214,549	100.0	115,904,641
Occupied housing units	1,520	69.0	91.0%	11,502,870	94.2	105,480,101
Owner-occupied housing units	1,074	70.7	66.2%	6,546,334	56.9	69,815,753
Renter-occupied housing units	446	29.3	33.8%	4,956,536	43.1	35,664,348
Vacant housing units	682	31.0	9.0%	711,679	5.8	10,424,540
Social Characteristics						
Population 25 years and over	2,540	100.0		21,298,900	100.0	182,211,639
High school graduate or higher	730	85.2	80.4%	4,288,452	76.8	52,168,981
Bachelor's degree or higher	289	17.2	24.4%	3,640,157	26.6	28,317,792
Civilian veterans (civilian population 25 years and older)	528	19.4	12.7%	2,569,340	10.5	26,403,703
Disability Status (population 21 to 64 years)	476	23.8	19.2%	3,848,497	20.0	30,553,796
Foreign Born	107	3.0	11.1%	8,864,255	26.2	31,107,889
Now Married (population 15 years and over)	1,730	59.5	54.4%	13,657,201	52.4	120,231,273
Speak a language other than English at home (5 years and older)	215	6.3	17.9%	12,401,756	39.5	46,951,595
Economic Characteristics						
In Labor Force (16 years and older)	1,672	58.8	63.9%	15,977,879	62.4	138,820,935
Mean travel time to work in minutes (16 years and older)	29.0	(X)	25.5	27.7	(X)	25.5
Median household income (dollars)	35,827	(X)	41,994	47,493	(X)	41,994
Median family income (dollars)	42,756	(X)	50,046	53,025	(X)	50,046
Per capita income (dollars)	18,815	(X)	21,857	22,711	(X)	21,587
Families below poverty level	89	9.0	9.2%	845,991	10.6	6,620,945
Individuals below poverty level	397	11.3	12.4%	4,706,130	14.2	33,899,812
Housing Characteristics						
Single-family owner-occupied homes	791	100.0		5,527,618	100.0	55,212,108
Median value (dollars)	128,600	(X)	119,600	211,500	(X)	119,600

Section 20440: Appendix 3
Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center

Median of selected monthly owner costs	(X)	(X)		(X)	(X)	(X)
With a mortgage	897	(X)	1,088	1,478	(X)	1,088
Not mortgaged	253	(X)	295	305	(X)	295

(X) Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3)

US Census Bureau Data	Sierra County	California
Population, 2001 estimate	3,485	34,501,130
Population percent change, April 1, 2000-July 1, 2001	-2.0%	1.9%
Population, 2000	3,555	33,871,648
Population, net change, 1990 to 2000	237	4,060,221
Population, percent change, 1990 to 2000	7.1%	13.6%
Births, 1997	23	524,840
Deaths, 1997	37	224,592
Infant deaths, 1997	0	3,104
Unemployment, 1999	150	864,205
Retail sales, 1997 (\$1000)	8,826	263,118,346
Retail sales per capita, 1997	\$2,620	\$8,167
Housing units authorized by building permits, 2000	19	145,575
Value of new private housing units, 2000	1,992	23,343,968

In many areas Sierra County shows some significant differences from the rest of California. Noteworthy is the fact that the Sierra County median household income is only 75 % of the statewide value, and the per capita income is only 82 % of the Statewide value. While the high school graduates rate for the County is higher than the statewide value (85.2% vs. 76.8%), the number of 4-year college graduates is lower for the County than the statewide value (17.2% vs. 26.6%). There is a linkage between the amount of education an individual has completed and the income levels they can expect to earn, and Sierra County clearly is not positioned to improve the economic status of its residents. Since access to a library and higher education opportunities is so limited in the County, it is difficult to reverse this trend without an investment in a new library.

Population Composition By Age and Sex.

The State of California Department of Finance projects the state's median age will have risen from 31 to 33 by 2040. Sierra County will have the highest median age at 51 in 2040. Lassen County will have the highest proportion of men at 57 % in 2040 and Sierra County will have the highest proportion of women at 52 %.

An analysis of population by age for Sierra County shows the largest increase by percentage in the 85 plus age group between 1990 and 2000 (320.8%). The 40 to 49 year olds added an additional 257 persons, a total increase of 80%. The 10 to 19 year olds made up the largest segment of the Sierra County population in 1998 with a 32.8% increase over 1980. The 20 to 29 year old population declined by nearly 30% during the twenty-year period (SEDD).

The Census information confirms that Sierra County has a lower percentage of 5 and under youth compared to California (4.1% vs. 7.3%) and a lower rate for the 18 and under group (23.3% vs. 27.3%). Conversely, Sierra County has a higher rate of 65 and older residents compared to the statewide average (17.7% vs. 10.6%). This information points to the fact that

there are few employment, cultural or educational opportunities that attract families with young children to move to and stay in Sierra County. Equally, the population of the County is “graying,” and there are very few places and opportunities for these residents to come together and enjoy a quiet reading place with access to a substantial range of books. The table below provides a breakdown of the County’s age structure for several comparative years.

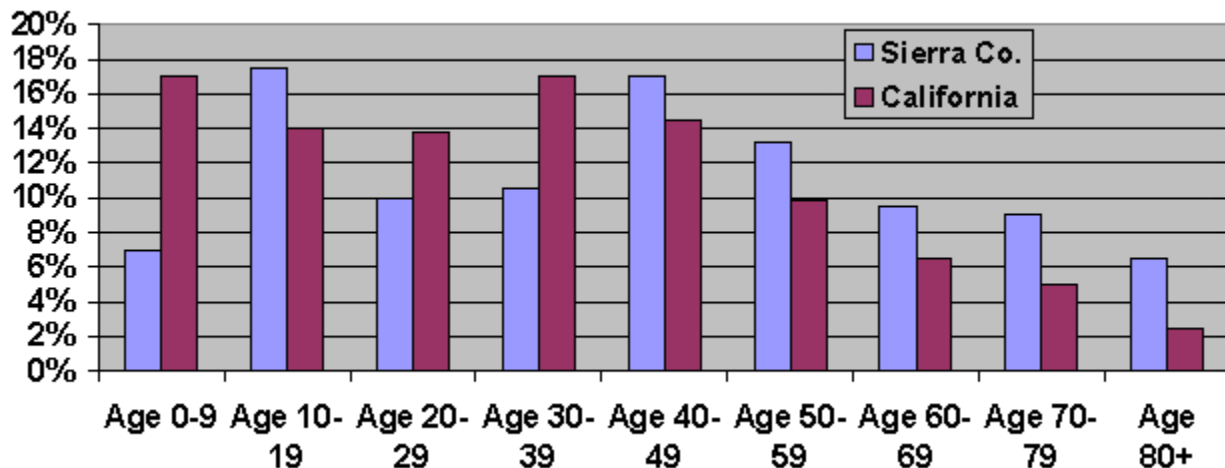
**Sierra County Population By Age
1980 to 1998**

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	85+
1980	390	442	480	480	319	329	384	196	53
1985	472	355	420	571	384	325	359	246	84
1990	524	403	265	554	487	350	308	292	135
1995	345	535	295	438	571	403	325	325	173
1998	234	587	341	354	576	455	328	305	223

Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

Compared to California, Sierra County has a larger percentage of older population. The larger proportion of 10 to 19 year olds is probably directly related to the larger number of 40 to 49 year olds which would create family clusters.

Percent of Total Population by Age, 1998

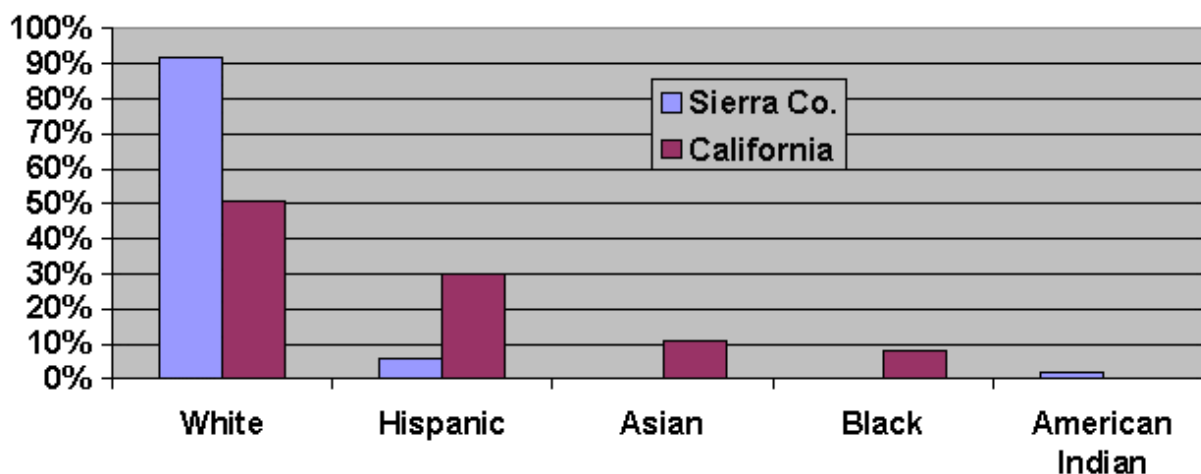


Population by Race/Ethnicity

Population by race and Hispanic ethnicity is compiled by what the respondents themselves consider their primary ancestry. White, Black, American Indian, and Asian are racial designations while Hispanic is an ethnic designation that is often a mix of White, Black, and American Indian races. Sierra County significantly exceeds the statewide percentage of white residents and is well below the statewide percentages for Hispanic, Asian and Black residents. Sierra County does have a higher percentage of “American Indian” residents than the statewide figures, but both the statewide and County values are extremely small. The Sierra County

“American Indian” total of 67 residents in the 2000 Census represents 0.02% of the total statewide population in this category.

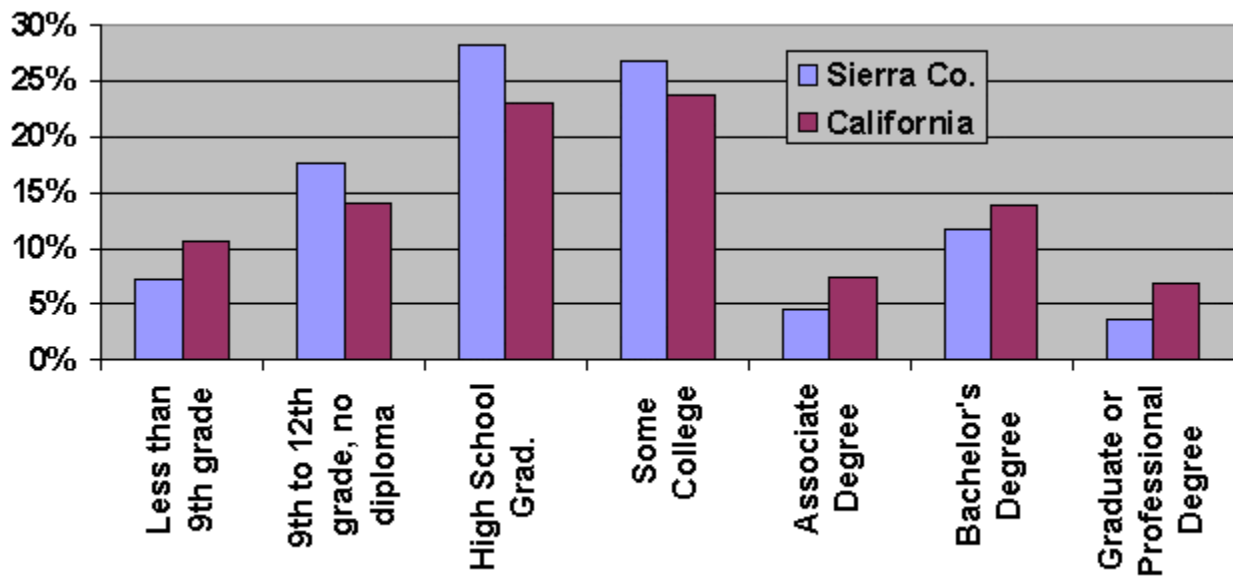
Percent of Population by Race / Ethnicity, 1998



Population by Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is the number of people 18 years and over who have achieved the specified level of education. This data was taken from the 1990 Census of Population and Housing. The Bureau of the Census has not released updated estimates of educational attainment at the county level since the census. The County's educational attainment as a percent of persons 18 and over is compared with the state.

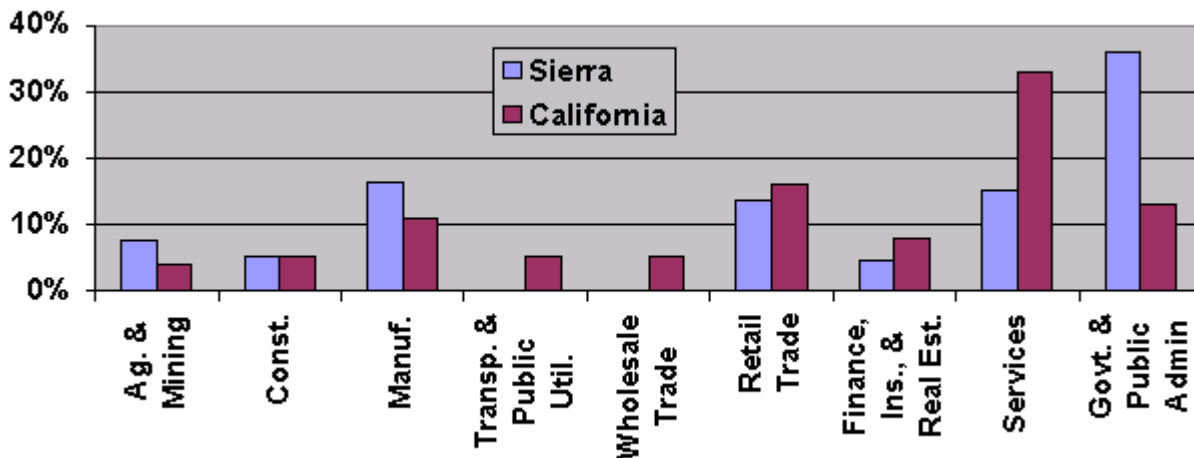
Population by Educational Attainment (Percent of Total Size), 1990



Employment By Industry

Employment by industry sector is the general classification of employment categorized by the final product or service produced by the firm for which the employee works, regardless of type of work performed. The firms are classified by the type of activity in which they are primarily engaged, according to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of 1987. Data in this section comes from the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Employment by Industry (Percent of Total Size), 1997



Sierra County has historically experienced highly fluctuating unemployment rates due to the seasonal occupations that dominate the labor force. For 2001, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranged from a low of 4.8 % in September to a high of 19.1 % in February. The Average Annual unemployment rate for 2001 was 9.7 %. Sierra County typically has a higher unemployment rate than the statewide average. This in-turn affects the local tax base which limits the ability of local government and agencies to significantly improve service delivery or build new capital projects that could benefit the economic development opportunities for the region. The County recently lost one of the larger industry employers (Sierra Pacific Industries - Loyalton mill, 2001), and there are few opportunities to attract new industries to the area.

Median Property Value

Census data shows that Sierra County has a much lower median value of housing units, \$128,600, compared to the state median of \$211,500. However, homeownership rate in Sierra County is higher. This is an indication of the long-term residence of many residents, as well as the scarcity of rental units.

Educational Indexes

The average California Academic Performance Index (API) for public schools in the library service area is listed in the table below.

Selected Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District - School API Rankings

School	2001 API	2002 API
Loyalton Elementary	752	770
Loyalton Intermediate	804	794
Loyalton High School	675	704
Sierraville Elementary	949	not available

The API reporting range is 200 to 1,000 points. Overall, the Sierra Valley schools are performing well, with one school, Loyalton Intermediate, exceeding the interim Statewide Performance Target of 800. While the API values are good, there is still room for improvement. Academic success and the ability to meet the targeted growth is dependent upon quality educational programs and access to library resources and homework assistance that allow for more challenging work to be attempted and successfully completed. The high API scores indicate that Sierra County students are capable of progressing into higher education settings and reversing the lower college graduate statistics for the County. The developing partnership with Feather River Community College to create an Academic Achievement program within the new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center will help improve the County's higher education attainment levels. New and expanded economic development programs throughout the region will help to create jobs and a business climate where recent college graduates can return to where their families raised them.

Income, Poverty and Social Programs:

Sierra County has a slightly lower poverty rate than the statewide average, but median household income and per capita income levels are significantly lower than the statewide average.

The school level CalWorks and Free and Reduced Meal programs are good indices of the income and poverty levels affecting the community. The following table is the data reported by the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District for the 2002-2003 school year.

SCHOOL	Enrolled in Public School	CalWORKs	% in CalWORKs	Free Meals	% Free Meals	Reduced Price Meals	% Reduced Price Meals	% Combined Free & Reduced Meals
Loyalton Elementary	211	21	10%	78	37%	41	19%	56%
Loyalton High	185	4	2%	29	16%	12	6%	22%
Loyalton Middle	154	6	4%	26	17%	15	10%	27%
Sierraville Elementary	22	0	0%	2	9%	4	18%	27%
Totals:	572	31	5%	135	24%	72	13%	36%

While the overall percentage of participants in the CalWorks and free or reduced meals is not excessive compared to the state averages, the values do show a significant group of residents needing some form of assistance. Information from the Sierra County Children and Families Commission shows that families in need of support by these programs typically cannot spend income on books, art supplies, or other resources to improve the academic performance of their children. Access to quality after-school library resources becomes essential to help overcome this situation.

Additional factors that affect overall student performance include the number of English Language Learners (ELL) in the community. The following table shows the most recent number of ELL students reported by the School District.

Number of English Learners in California Public Schools, by Language and Grade Ranked by Total, 2001-02

Grade:	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Ungr.	Total	% of total
Rank / Language Name																
1 Spanish	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	100
EL totals	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	100
% of Total	28.6	14.3	14.3	14.3	28.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	
Sierra Co. EL	2	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	
% of County Total	25.0	12.5	12.5	25.0	25.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	
State EL Totals	177688	173093	175274	162217	138430	127787	112936	98576	91486	97751	77446	60271	45630	31733	159248	
% of State Total	11.4	11.1	11.4	10.4	8.9	7.2	7.2	6.3	5.9	6.3	5.0	3.9	2.9	1.3	100	

source: California Department of Education Educational Demographics Unit

Sierra County has a significantly different distribution of ELL students compared to the statewide averages. The local schools are able to address the ELL student needs by the end of the 4th grade so they can be successful learners in the upper grade levels. The County data, however, does not reveal if full comprehension and mastery of English has been obtained, or if there is still slight problems with comprehension. The information gathered for the Adult Literacy Rates suggest that there is still some need for ELL support in the upper grades.

Adult Literacy Rate

According to results of the state adult literacy survey (Jenkins, L.B. and I.S. Kirsch, Adult literacy in California: results of the state adult literacy survey. California Dept. of Education, Sacramento, CA, 1994), the percentage of adults in the Sierra Nevada region with poor literacy skills is strikingly high. In the North Sierra region, defined as Plumas and Sierra counties, 39% of adults have poor literacy skills. The statewide figure of 46% is greatly affected by the number of Californians for whom English is a second language. Since the Sierra Nevada area is significantly less ethnically diverse than the rest of the state, the region's low literacy level is considerable.

The Sierra County Adult Literacy Program was started in 1996, through an establishment grant from the California State Library, to meet the low literacy needs of Sierra County. As reported in a 1998 report to the State, the literacy program and library programs are natural allies in Sierra County, and the library stations have benefited from the cooperation between the two programs. In 1997, the literacy program in Loyalton had eight (8) adult learners plus thirteen (13) in an ELL group and two (2) youth learners. In 1998, the Loyalton literacy program had nine (9) adult learners, twelve (12) in an ELL group and four (4) youth learners. The literacy program receives referrals from the continuation, junior, and senior high schools and the Welfare to Work program (D. Y. Shaffer, 1998).

Continued support for the literacy program, including classroom and meeting space, is essential to make this program successful. Focus group discussions with the literacy program staff and volunteers revealed a high interest in maintaining the positive association between the literacy

program and the library. The most important considerations for the literacy program are a quiet and private classroom or meeting room setting where clients can come and maintain a degree of confidentiality, and access to a wide variety of support reading materials to match to the reading levels of the program participants. Programming goals for the literacy program include library story times and “families for literacy” story times, book discussion groups, Internet access, and resource/referral center for tobacco and health education.

Community Traffic Patterns

Given the limited number of jobs locally, many employees need to travel extended distances to find employment. Commuting time limits the free-time available for families to pursue common activities and socialization. Traffic patterns can also indicate potential safety hazards and risks from longer times spent in vehicles. Fortunately, Sierra County’s population is still very small and does not result in significant traffic volumes on local roads. The following table shows the current and projected traffic volumes on State Route 49, the principle road into the Loyalton community near the proposed Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center.

State Route 49 Traffic Counts and Projections
Annual Average Daily Traffic Roadway Segment Values
Sierraville to Plumas County Line

Year	AADT	% Change	Level-of Service (LOS) Rating
2000	1890		A
2010	2590	+ 37 %	B
2020	3290	+ 27 %	B

source: Caltrans District 3 - Karen Peneschi

Building a new community library in the Sierra Valley will help to reduce or eliminate the number of trips to full-service libraries in Portola, Quincy, or Reno, NV, and provide a safe alternative where families can enjoy reading resources without a long trip to another town.

Other Community Characteristics

Sierra County is classified as rural according to the Schools & Libraries Division. Not only is the population sparse, but residents of Sierra County are isolated geographically from many informational, cultural, and entertainment outlets. The closest metropolitan area in California is Sacramento, a distance of 150 miles. Most residents travel to Reno, NV, a distance of 41 miles, for many basic services, but winter weather conditions can make travel over Beckwourth Summit difficult or impossible.

Sierra County is currently without a full-service hospital and also lacks dental services. Patients in Loyalton must travel to Reno, NV for pre- and post-natal care and for any specialty health services. There is no employment center or career center in the County to help alleviate the seasonal and high average annual unemployment rate. There is no access to DSL or high-speed

Internet outside the school system. There are no bookstores, record stores, department stores, or movie theatres in Sierra County. There are no youth centers, arcades, or shopping malls where young people can congregate. The City of Loyalton recently constructed a skateboard park next to the site of the future library which has become a highly popular location.

While the western side of Sierra County attracts a seasonal trade, Sierra Valley has very little tourist traffic. Economic development activities are attempting to capitalize on the beauty and charm of this region, but there is very little support infrastructure and local expertise to develop a stable income from this market. Sierra County and the Sierra Valley area could use a new Library to help support and enhance the economic strategies for making this area prosperous by providing access to the research tools and information that local residents can put to practical use.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS.

Sierra County, celebrating 150 years of service (1852 - 2002) in the eastern portion of California, has a rich and colorful history to match its people. The County Seat of Downieville was once a contender for serving as the State Capital before the gold mining era faded, and the bulk of the early residents moved on to other pursuits. Today, the County barely registers as a statistical blip on the larger radar screen of California statistics; County residents seem to like things that way.

Sierra County is an extremely large land area with diverse topography and long traveling distances between small communities. The County has the second smallest population base statewide, and the small communities that are dispersed throughout the County have very few services available to them. Sierra County is economically challenged, with a lower than statewide average family and per capita income, high seasonal and average annual unemployment rates, and a very small property tax and sales tax base to fund government services. The County recently lost one of the larger industry employers (Sierra Pacific Industries - Loyalton mill, 2001), and there are few opportunities to attract new industries to the area.

Demographically, Sierra County is an aging population, with lower than statewide average household income. The cost of living in this remote mountain and high valley community is tempered by lower than average housing costs, but the lack of public transportation and the long driving distances to access even basic services does impact the residents. Enrollments in the four (4) schools in the library service area have shown a general upward trend since 1980, but recent enrollment trends show a slight leveling off and possibly a decline.

The person-per-household size in the County is higher than the statewide average, showing a greater percentage of school age children in the local households. Sierra County is a great place to raise children, despite the lack of typical urban/suburban services, and people are making a choice to stay and educate their children in a high-ranking academic performance school system. Despite the closing of the last lumber mill in the County, the local housing vacancy rates have been low due to new residents moving in from the Truckee, CA and the Reno/Sparks area where housing prices are comparatively high. This is transforming segments of the community into a commuting culture that does not spend as much time or provide support for local activities. With its beautiful scenery, high API scores, and incredibly low housing prices, Sierra County is in a position to attract new residents to the area.

Sierra County does not have a large percentage of English Language Learners (ELL), but it is difficult to provide services even for this small population base. The Sierra County Literacy Program and other service agencies are helping this group, and the School District is able to help ELL students by the fifth grade to be fully successful; however, a stronger Library and Literacy Program presence will help ELL adults to have better paying employment opportunities.

Sierra County does not have a very ethnically diverse population, especially when compared to the statewide rates. Sierra County does have a slightly larger percentage for the American Indian population compared to the statewide values, but the total of 67 residents in the 2000 Census represents 0.02% of the total statewide population in this category. There are no special library

service needs specifically identified for any ethnic group, but access to all programs, including ELL and the Literacy Program, is encouraged and supported for everyone.

Sierra County schools perform very well compared to the statewide API index, and there is a higher percentage of high school graduates in the County compared to the statewide rate. This trend is not continued into the number or percent of college graduates in the community. This lack of a higher education trained workforce is one impediment to enticing new industries to relocate to the County. There are no local programs available to encourage and support the transition of recent high school graduates and unemployed workers seeking new careers to prepare for entry into college programs. The lack of trained and licensed childcare providers makes it difficult for parents with young children to consistently show up to work if a job is found. The household and per-capita income rates partially reflect this lack of opportunity to get a higher education and put the experience to practical use.

Sierra County has a lower poverty rate than the statewide average, but the unemployment rates are higher, and there are significant population numbers that are receiving either reduced or free school meals or are participants in the CalWorks programs. The SCCFC Needs Assessment (2000) identified a significant number of parents that cannot afford or are not providing adequate age appropriate reading materials for their young children. The new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is a place where services can be effectively provided for families with children. The Library resources will be conveniently placed so community residents can take advantage of reading material that can help improve their employment opportunities, increase general knowledge, or just provide for some relaxation and enjoyment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - ANALYSIS OF LIBRARY SERVICE NEEDS.

The new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center will respond to one basic overriding need: Sierra County does not have a qualifying library anywhere in the County. The new Sierra Valley Library will also address a number of needs identified through the Library Interest Survey and the focus group and community input sessions held between April 2002, and January 2003.

Survey respondents have a very high percentage of library card holders (45%), especially considering the minimal amount of service available in the community and the long travel time to the nearest full-service library. What survey respondents and focus group participants want is a larger selection of books and magazines, access to good reference materials for doing research, access to internet computers, and a place to sit and read in comfort.

One of the most significant needs expressed by survey respondents and School District Administrators in focus group meetings is the need for a homework center where middle and high school students can have access to Internet resources and reference materials they need to help complete assignments. Due to budgetary limitations, libraries at all school facilities are closed at the end of the school day; students commonly complain that out-of-class assignments require access to Internet resources, reference materials, and books that they cannot get at home. The school site administrators have also identified the value of creating a central location where students can work with trained intervention staff to receive appropriate instructional support.

While Loyalton schools have high API scores, the low percentage of college graduates and the high unemployment rate indicates a need for career, college, and scholarship information, as well as a collection of books, magazines, and electronic resources to facilitate and inspire life-long learning. With these resources available in the new library, high school students and adults will have the means to set and achieve educational and career goals.

The Sierra County Literacy Program is a natural partner in the new library, since illiteracy is a basic barrier to accessing library services. The Literacy program needs a confidential, ADA accessible location, and its students need access to a wide range of reading materials. Providing a location in the new library for the Literacy program will meet the community's need for a confidential place to receive one-on-one and group instruction in basic skills.

The need for storytime programs and children's literature was voiced by local parents, many of whom cannot purchase books for their homes. School readiness has been identified as a priority by SCCFC and SPJUSD; a public library providing a wide variety of children's books and programs to encourage a love of reading, is essential toward achieving this goal. Reading materials are also needed to serve young adults, whose surveys indicated a desire for a wide range of fiction.

Census data documents that the Sierra County population is aging, and a higher percentage of residents are over 65 than the statewide average. The Library will serve the needs of seniors by providing large print books, audio/visual resources, and general interest materials on health, finances, and "how-to" books. The new library will also serve the needs of the senior

population, and any needing access to the rich history of Sierra County, with the establishment of the Local History Room. An important consideration identified by focus groups and design charette participants that was not revealed in the Library Interest Survey is a strong desire to have the history of Sierra County represented in the new Library.

Programs for seniors, adults, young adults, and children cannot occur without a meeting room space. An overwhelming percentage of respondents (91%) agreed that a meeting room is an important element of a multi-use library, and facility partners as well as community agencies have all expressed the need for a location in the new facility to provide classes, conduct meetings, and offer community programs.

The new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is designed to respond to the concerns and needs of the Sierra Valley community. The residents are looking for access to basic library services. The vast majority of residents (80%) want the library to be open between 11 and 30 hours a week, with the largest percentage (42%) expecting the library to be open between 11 and 20 hours. Corresponding with the number of hours the Library is open, most survey respondents (38%) would prefer the Library be open between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m. on weekdays over another choice. The public recognizes the value of investing in a Library to improve the quality of life in the community (90% agree/strongly agree).

Since the original concept for the multi-use, integrated services building came from the Sierra County Children and Families Commission and the Sierra County Office of Education, it was important to determine if the community believed that a library could be successfully matched with other uses. From the community responses, the answer was a strong “yes!” Providing a single point of entry for a variety of information and family services will meet the community’s desire to maximize services and minimize ongoing costs. Community members articulated the value of having a library available on the same site as the day care center so they could take advantage of children’s literature collections and storytelling programs.

The new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is designed to respond to the concerns and needs of the Sierra Valley community. The public recognizes the value of investing in a Library to improve the quality of life in the community. Individually, none of the four participating agencies can afford to develop this new building to integrate and coordinate better public service delivery for the County residents, but in partnership together with the State’s support from the *Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000*, the dream can become a reality.

ANALYSIS OF LIBRARY SERVICE NEEDS.

The new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is designed with the needs of the Sierra Valley community as the primary concern. Sierra County needs a permanent library space which is modern, efficient, and inviting to the Valley residents. As one survey respondent states:

A new library could provide a safe, quiet, friendly place to read books & magazines, to research & make notes - to write. A clean, welcoming atmosphere, spacious areas would encourage adults & children & youth to become acquainted with the privileges offered by a new library. A new library in Loyalton could open doors to opportunities & new horizons for everyone. A new library will be an investment in our community - in our people.

Sierra County currently has no permanent library. The rented Loyalton library station is currently contracted to be open 8 hours per week. Short-term grants from the Sierra County Local Coordinating Council have extended the hours to 16 hours per week. The Loyalton library station currently is open for 16 hours per week. The Loyalton library station has had an inconsistent operating schedule in the past based on staffing availability. Since the closure of the Sierra Pacific Industries lumber mill in Loyalton, the patterns of Library usage have shown some changes, and it is presumed that more workers are having to commute to long-distance jobs and may, therefore, require later operating hours during the work week if they want to check out a book. This is verified by the 38% of survey respondents who indicated that they would most use the Library between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekdays.

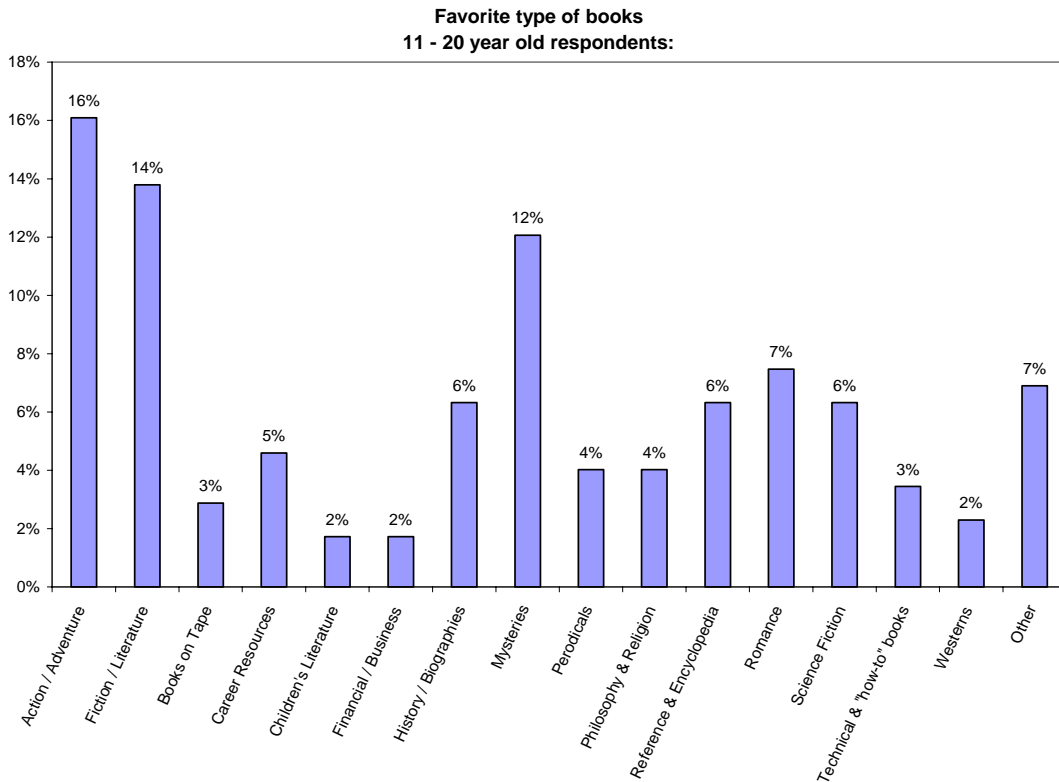
Sierra County residents understand the cost considerations and practical limitations of providing a full range of library service to every County resident. As shown in the Library Interest Survey, the majority of respondents do not expect the library to be open more than 30 hours per week, with the largest group (42%) requesting the library be open between 11 and 20 hours per week. Most respondents would like the library to be open between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The survey respondents overwhelmingly agree that library service is still relevant in the Internet age (95% agree/strongly agree); what the respondents do want is access to the Internet better than what the local dial-up service can provide. They want a homework center where their children can go after school to have access to reference materials and informational books that can help them with their homework assignments and, again, have fast Internet access to complete their projects. Parents want a library that can provide special programs for young children (77% strongly agree/21 % agree - highest survey ranking). Community members also want a comfortable place for reading and studying.

There are a number of service needs that were discussed during the community forums (Children's Summit, October 2002) and focus group meetings with service providers that will be addressed by the new Library. Additionally, the demographic information for the County also reveals service needs that the new Library can help respond to. Consistently discussed was the need for a place where parents can get help for their children who are struggling with homework assignments. With the progressively tougher academic standards mandated by the State, many parents feel lost in their ability to help their children with their assignments. Many teachers are

now taking advantage of the Internet for easier and more in-depth research activities as part of their assignments. Unfortunately, many students are not able to complete all of their Internet activities while at school and do not have the access, or the skills and confidence level, to complete assignments at home. Educators are frustrated because there is such a strong emphasis on incorporating technology into their lessons, but the School District cannot afford to keep the classroom computer labs open at the end of the day. Students also need access to books, newspapers and magazines, and reference materials to balance the information they may be getting from the Internet. The concept of a homework center within a public library will respond to these concerns and help to maintain the high academic standards that are reflected in the API scores for the School District.

While the school libraries appear to have a sufficient number of books on hand to meet the reading needs of the students, several of the books are donated and are fairly old and are in poor shape. More importantly, the Internet access computer to student ratio is extremely poor, especially for the Intermediate and High School students (grades 6-12). A more appropriate goal would be one terminal for every ten students. There are other Internet access computers spread throughout the classrooms, but their usage is limited to non-class hours or for in class activities. More computers are needed for student projects and homework assignments that require time to complete after the school buildings have closed for the day. The District currently does not have the resources to allocate additional media staff to four schools.

The survey responses from the 11th and 12th grade English students at Loyalton High School indicated a strong preference for action/adventure stories, fiction and literature, and mysteries. Several respondents identified other types of books, including books about sports, horror and suspense, and fantasy. The table below shows the responses for the 11 to 20 year olds who responded to the survey.



Another significant service need expressed by parents of young children is the need for storytime programs and a wide variety of interesting children's literature. Several participants at the Sierra County Children's Summit confirmed what had been previously identified in the SCCFC's Needs Assessment completed in July 2000, which is a need to have a large enough children's library collection to keep the early reading progression moving forward. Local parents feel frustrated that there are very few selections to choose from in the Loyalton library, and they cannot afford to buy the new books on their limited budgets. Parents want a place to come to where they can select a new book off the shelf, read a story to their children, and encourage them to select a second story to check-out and continue to read at home.

A community meeting room will help to serve children's program needs, providing space for family storytimes, preschool storytimes, and summer reading programs. A need for community meeting room space was also expressed by partners in the Children and Families Center and by many community agencies that require a space adequate to accommodate 25 adults. A space for community programs, parenting classes, and public meetings is a necessary part of this project.

The Census data indicates low college attendance for Sierra County residents, revealing the need to provide more information and opportunities for local residents to find out about college opportunities and scholarship/financial aid information to encourage college attendance. Equally valuable would be distance-learning programs that could be accessed in the community so the residents could start to explore and experience college level courses without having to fully commit to moving away to get a higher education. The new Library can respond to this service

need by gathering appropriate resources and information for the reference shelves, providing the high-speed Internet access to financial aid and college websites, and collaborating with Feather River Community College and other distance learning providers to bring course offerings into the Sierra Valley. A career center in the Sierra Valley Library, assisting adults seeking employment or a change in career, can address the high seasonal and annual unemployment rates that Sierra County currently contends with. Sierra County is exploring how services from the California Employment Development Department (EDD) and other regional employment programs can be electronically accessed in the new facility.

The Census data also documents the continued aging of the Sierra County population in comparison to the rest of the State. Appropriate library services for this age group will include large print books, audio/visual resources such as books on tape and CD readers, and general interest reading materials on health, finances, and technical and “how-to” books. The new Library reading chairs will be an invitation for seniors to come in and enjoy a book before leaving for the evening. The meeting room will be a place where reading clubs can form and explore authors and literary styles that interest them. The Library can serve as a social hub for seniors to come together, get information, discuss events, arrange activities, and even get a monthly blood pressure check in the Health Department outreach room. The new Library will also serve the needs of the senior population with the creation of the Local History room to help preserve some of the memories of the past and the successes that helped to forge the development of Sierra County.

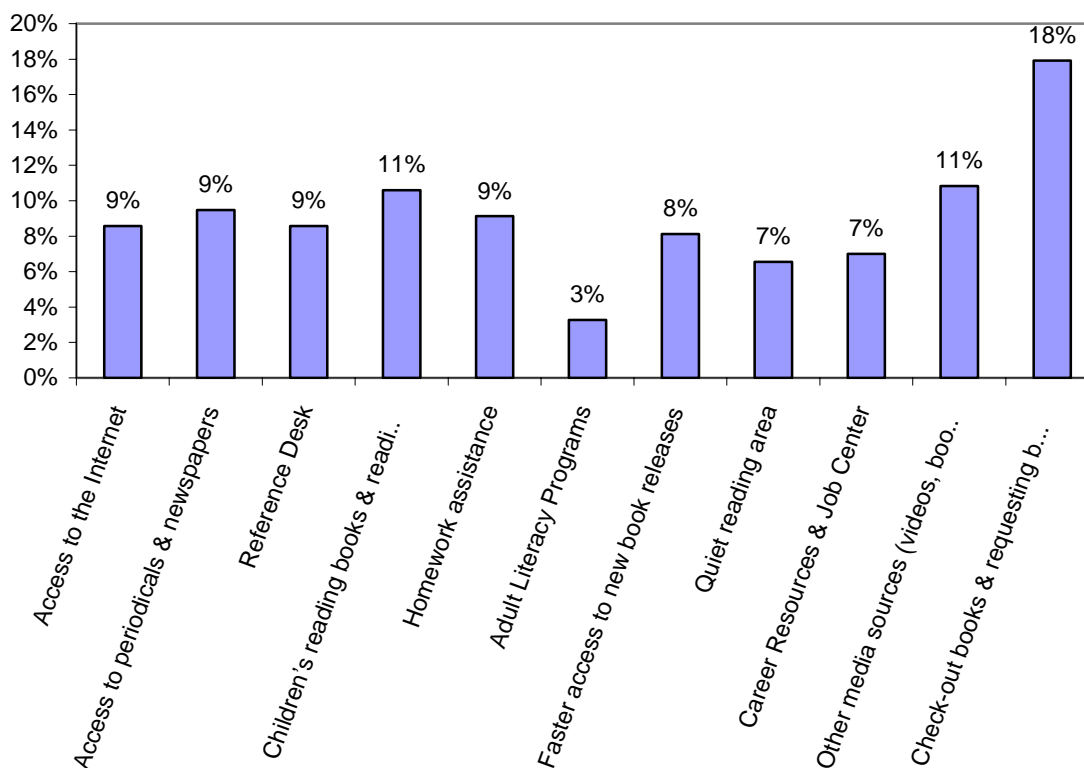
Statistical data indicates a high percentage of low-literacy adults in Sierra County. The Sierra County Literacy Program has existed since 1996, to serve the literacy needs of Sierra County. Providing a location in the new library for the Literacy program will meet the community’s need for a confidential place to receive one-on-one and group instruction in basic skills.

Since the City of Loyalton celebrated its 100th year in 2001, and Sierra County celebrated its 150th birthday of existence in 2002, there has been a renewed interest in the local history of the region. The Local History room responds to library service needs expressed by Sierra County and local educators, as well as several participants in the design charrettes. This room will serve as a repository of historical information that should be available to the public and as a research room where study and analysis of information can be conducted with few disruptions. The space has been designed so one or two individuals or small groups can come together and work on a research project together. The room will have a flat case file for large maps and oversized graphics. File cabinets where manuscripts, photographic collections, microfilm rolls, and folders of information can be stored will also be in the Local History room. This room will have larger case shelves so that book faces can be displayed for featured volumes. The Local History room will complement the City’s museum in the adjoining City Park, serving as the repository for the written history of the community along side the visual artifacts that the museum has to offer.

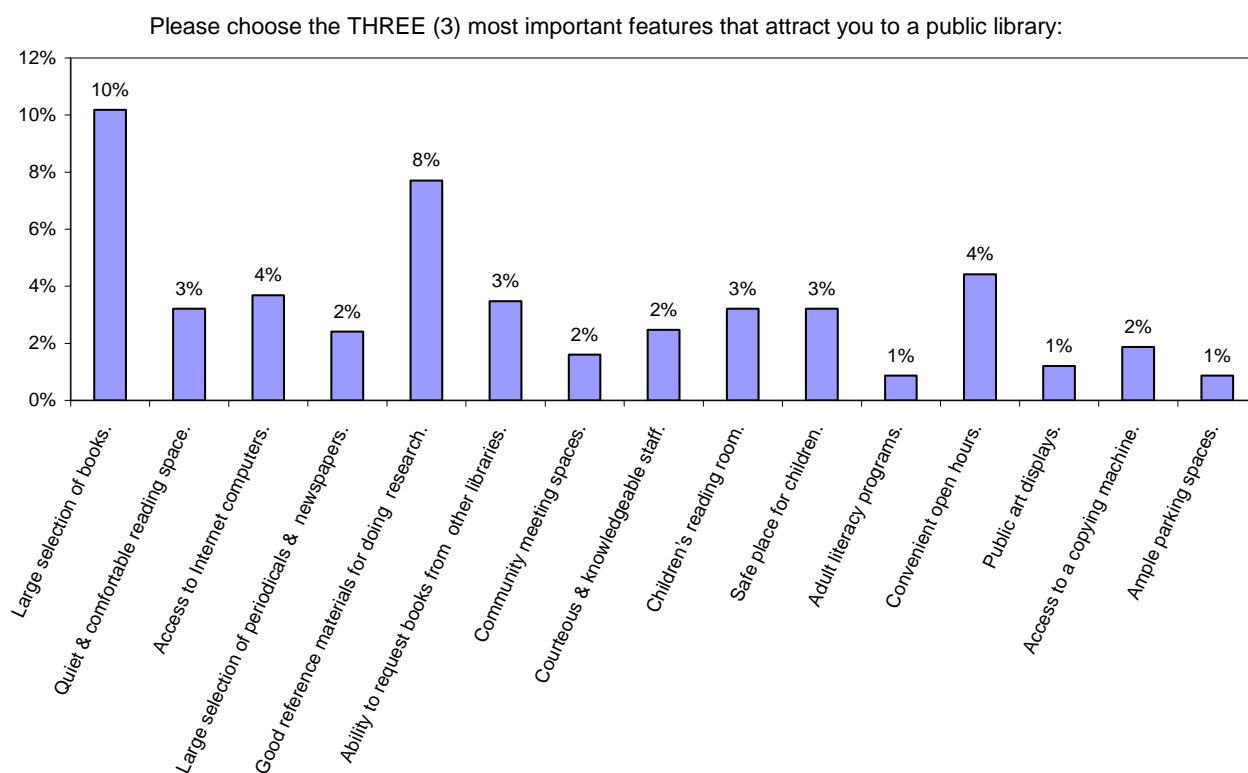
The public responses to the survey questions help to identify the desired services that the local community expects to be provided in the new library. The top three (3) desired services include the ability to check out books and request books from other libraries (18% of respondents), children’s reading books and reading room (11%), and access to other media sources such as videos and books-on-tape (11%). The graph below shows all the response rates to the survey

question, “If a new branch library was built in the Loyalton area, please indicate what services you think you would use the most?”

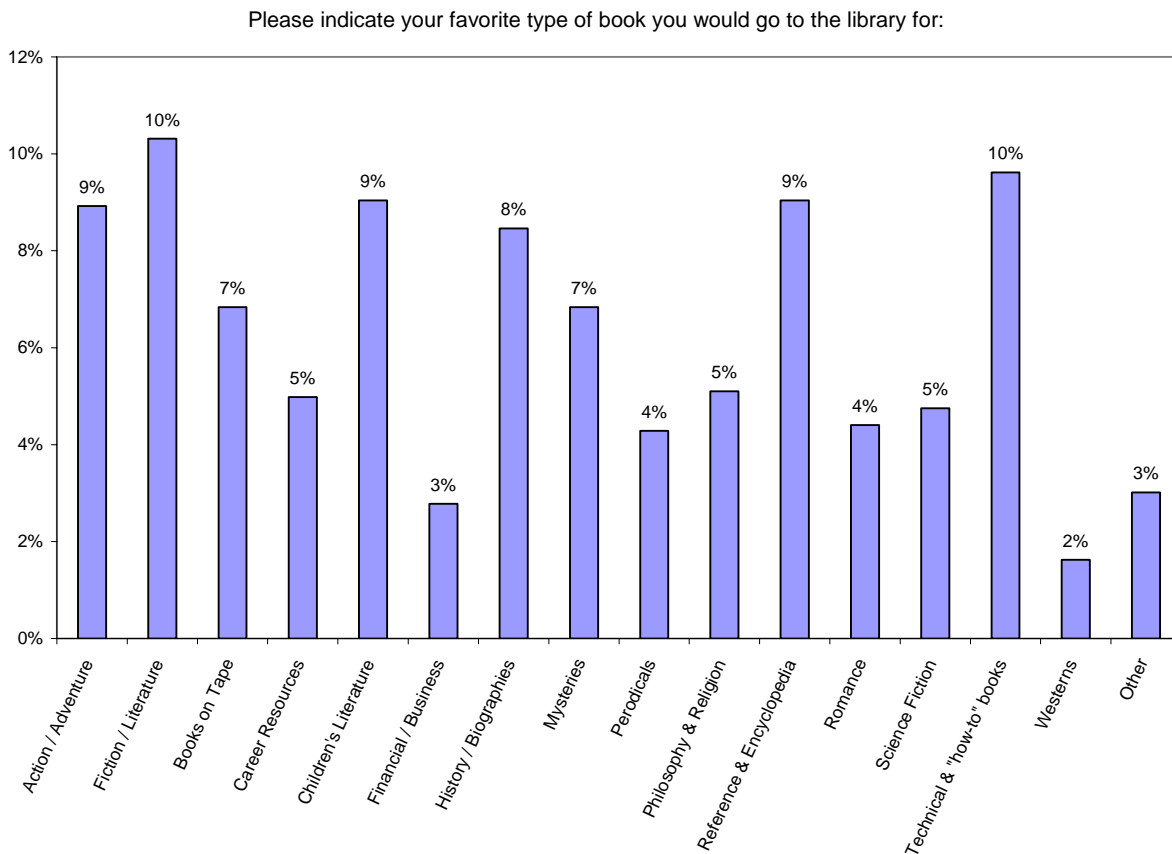
If a new branch library was built in the Loyalton area, please indicate what services you think you would use the most?



When asked the question of what are the three (3) most important features that attract you to a public library, the most often selected responses included a large selection of books (10% of respondents), good reference materials for doing research (8%), and convenient open hours (4%). The graph below shows all the response rates to the survey question “*Please choose the three (3) most important features that attract you to a public library:*”



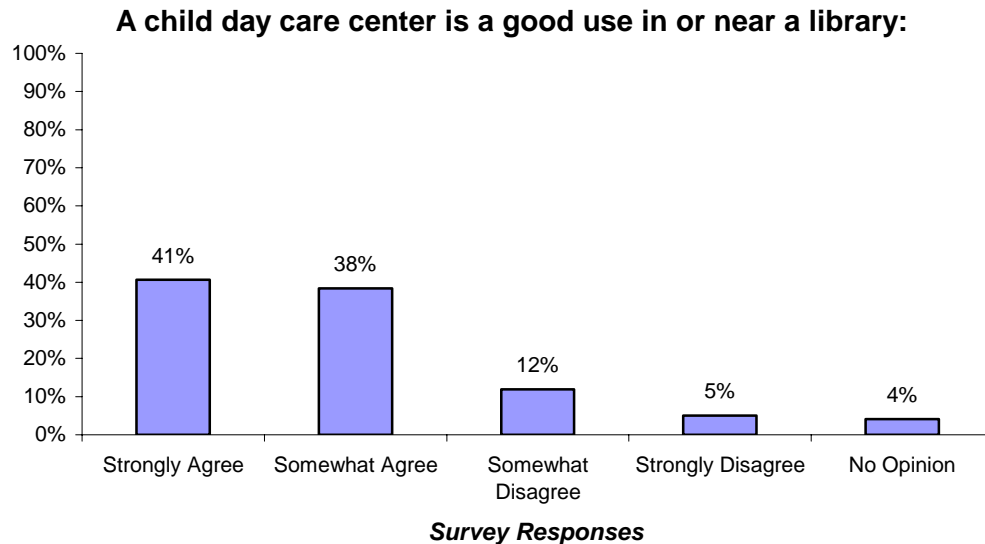
The Sierra County residents can be expected to be solid supporters of the new library. When asked if the survey participant currently had an active library card for any public library, 45% responded yes, which is phenomenal given the minimal state of library service in the County, and the long distance that must be driven to get to the nearest libraries in Portola, Quincy, and Reno, NV. The existing temporary library in Loyalton has long had a small but dedicated Friends of the Library group who has tried to increase usage of the library station, and which has held book sales to raise money for books and supplies. The library books that are most popular in the community include action/adventure stories, fiction/literature, children's literature, reference and encyclopedia resources, and technical and "how-to" books. The following graph shows the complete responses to the question about favorite books.



The library interest survey included several questions which asked respondents to reveal their support or interest level in public libraries and determine activities that have a beneficial association with libraries. Calibration questions were included in the survey to ensure that individuals were not randomly choosing responses that would be viewed as either supporting or not supporting public library services. The two questions that had the highest percentage of responses indicating a "strongly agree" position were "*A Library should provide special programs for young children*" (77% strongly agreed) and "*Library service is still relevant in the Internet Age*" (76% strongly agreed).

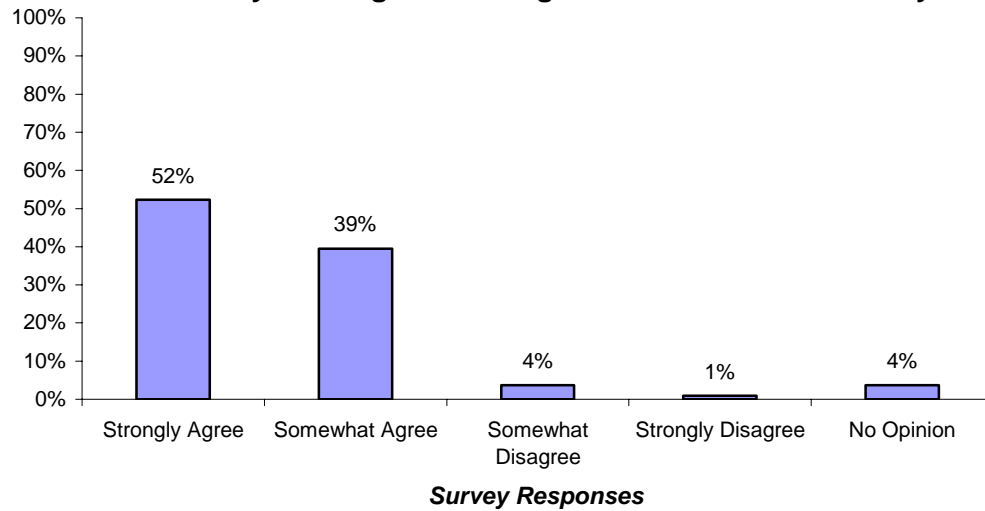
The one question that had the highest percentage of respondents stating a “strongly disagree” position was *“If I want to read a newly released book, I will buy it rather than wait to check it out of the library”* (19% strongly disagree). This response can be interpreted to mean that Sierra County residents will in fact rely on the library to give them access to new book releases. This observation is supported by the fact that Sierra County does not have convenient access to shopping opportunities that many larger communities enjoy and residents cannot go out and immediately buy a book. A new library will open a window onto the world for the residents of the Sierra Valley.

The survey respondents were asked how much they agreed with placing specific uses as part of a proposed multi-use, multi-purpose facility. The responses are based on perceptions of compatibility without considering architectural techniques that could address some potential concerns. The following graphs show the public responses to these “compatibility” questions.

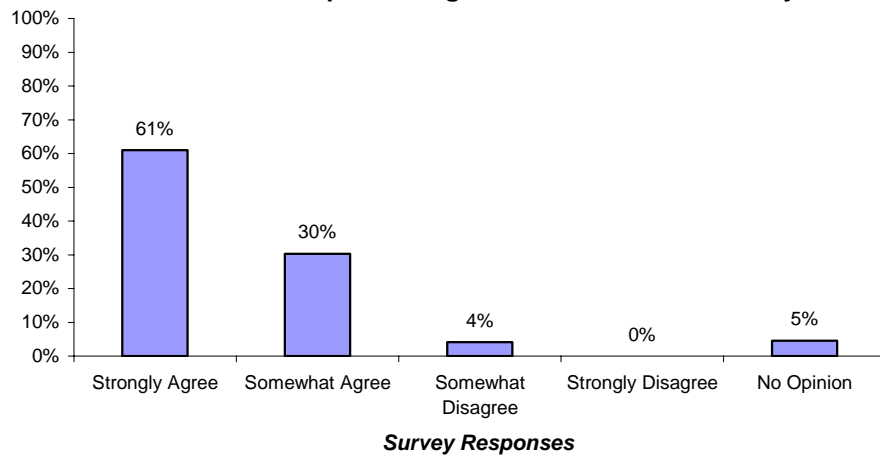


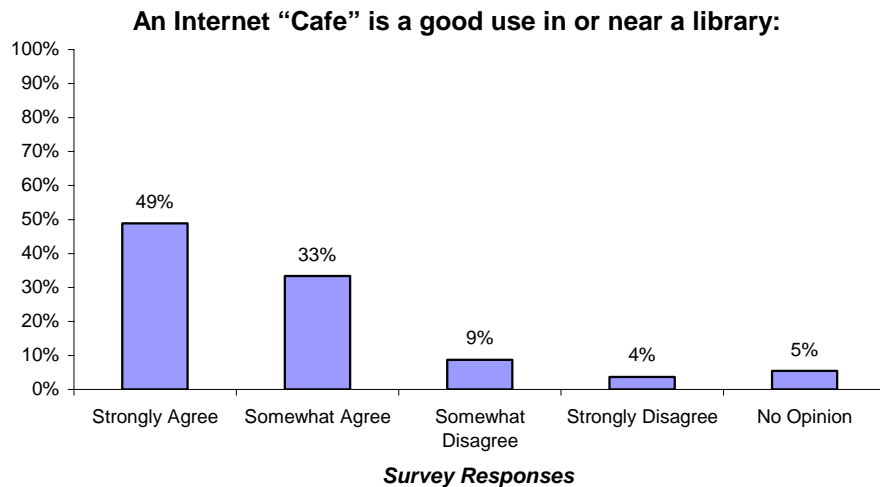
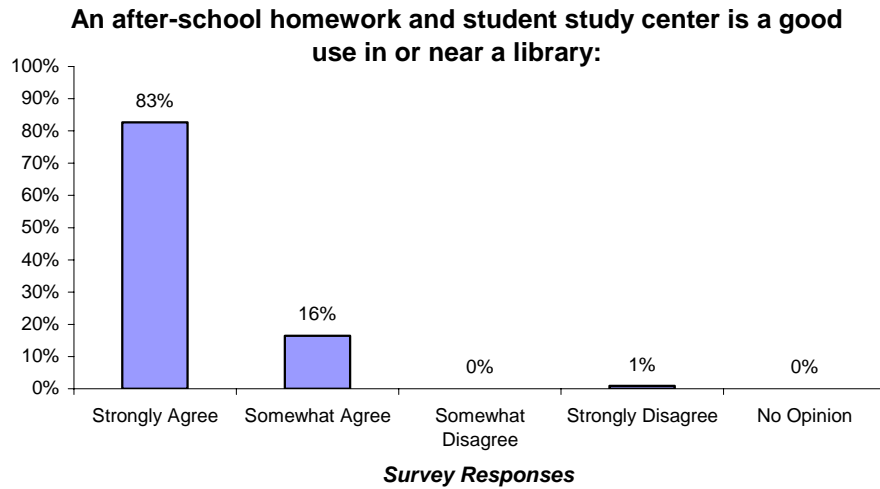
A combined 79% of the survey respondents agreed that a child day care center is a good use in or near a library. During focus group and design charrette discussion, once the concerns for separation and acoustics were addressed, the community members articulated the value of having a library available on the same site as the day care center so they could take advantage of children’s literature collections and storytelling programs. Having both the library and the child day care center at the same location as the Elementary School was also a strongly supported combination. Ms. Penny Berry, the Loyalton Elementary School Site Administrator, participated in focus groups and the design charettes and was a strong advocate for relocating both uses from their current locations to support and enhance the linkages that will ultimately help families and their children succeed in their early education.

A community meeting room is a good use in or near a library:



Adult education space is a good use in or near a library:





The Sierra County Children and Families Commission intends to construct a Children and Families Center based on their identification of community needs. SCCFC identified the need for a variety of services, such as parenting education, educational and recreational opportunities for children, and space for community events, which are similar to needs that the Sierra Valley Community Library will be built to meet. Partners in this project, and focus group participants, are strongly in favor of a joint-use facility to maximize services and reduce operating costs. Community members voiced the opinion that people who arrived at a multi-purpose facility for one purpose would be more likely to discover and utilize other services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - SERVICE LIMITATIONS OF EXISTING LIBRARY FACILITIES

According to the State Library definitions in Section 20430, Sierra County is the only county in California without an existing public library facility. Sierra County has been able to support four library stations under contract with the Plumas County Library since the 1960s. Library service is very limited, but it does represent a commitment by the County to try to provide a “quality of life” activity that supports the needs of the isolated residents.

When comparing the Loyalton library station statistics to the Library Interest Survey results, it is easy to see how service limitations affect patron use of the library. Since 1998, when the Loyalton library moved into its current rented space, the book collection has grown from 1,683 volumes to 2,237 volumes representing a 33% increase in the collection. Conversely, the number of books being checked out has declined in the same time period. The problem is partially due to the lack of new books to interest readers, especially since the Loyalton library has a relatively low 1.1 books per capita, the physical limitations of the library space not providing an appealing place to come and read, and the extremely limited operating hours.

The Loyalton library station cannot provide a number of services that are needed in the community, including reader seats and work tables, meeting room space, or even adequate bathrooms! The lack of high speed Internet access is also a deterrent for people to come and use the library. The Sierra County Literacy Program space is inadequate and potentially unsafe. The library station is not ADA compliant, and the staff workspace does not offer security over library resources or appropriate separation from patrons. The Loyalton library station is clearly deficient by modern library standards; there is not even adequate space to shelve the limited book collection that is circulated into the building.

Overall, library service in the Sierra Valley community area is limited by space. The new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is designed to address several service limitations, including the desire for a larger selection of books and good reference materials for doing research, access to Internet computers, and reader seats. Most important, the new library represents a permanent space where County library service can be coordinated and grow with the community.

SERVICE LIMITATIONS OF EXISTING LIBRARY FACILITIES

Sierra County Library Stations

According to the State Library definitions in Section 20430, Sierra County is the only county in California without an existing public library facility. Sierra County has contracted with Plumas County Library for library services since at least the 1960s. Plumas County Library provides books, supplies, postage, and training for contracted personnel. Sierra County is responsible for providing and maintaining buildings in which to house the library stations.

The library stations in Sierra County are located in Alleghany, Downieville, Sierra City, and Loyalton. Alleghany, a former mining town of less than 100 people, houses its library in the old church. The church is no longer used for services, and Sierra County is not charged for use of the facility. Until a few years ago, kneelers were being stacked up as makeshift shelves. The station was able to obtain donated shelves; however, the building does not have a phone, a bathroom, or regular heat. The Alleghany station houses a collection of approximately 150 books and is contracted to be open 2 hours a week.

The Downieville library station is located in the Native Daughters of the Golden West Hall. The Hall is rented by the Golden Rays Senior Center, and Sierra County sub-leases a portion of the hall from them. The library occupies a space approximately 15' x 20' and houses a collection of 740 Plumas County Library books, plus another 1,000 donated books and books on tape. The Downieville station is open 8 hours per week and offers free mediated dial-up Internet access at a maximum transfer rate of 44 kps.

Sierra City library station and literacy office are housed in a rented building on Sierra City's main street (Highway 49). The library is located in a 20' x 20' room with an adjacent office for literacy. While Sierra City is only contracted to be open 12 hours per week, the Literacy Coordinator opens the library to anyone who shows up while she is working. Sierra City's collection of 1,170 Plumas County Library books is augmented by a collection of more than 800 donated items. The Sierra City library station has phone and fax service, and offers free mediated dial-up access to the Internet at a maximum transfer rate of 44 kps.

Loyalton library station moved to its present location at 511 Main Street in 1998. The 500 square foot space includes an office for literacy services and a collection of 2,240 Plumas County Library books, plus approximately 500 donated items. Sierra County pays a month-to-month lease for the space, and also pays utilities. With grants obtained from the Local Coordinating Council, Loyalton station has doubled its open hours and is now open 16 hours per week. The library offers mediated dial-up Internet access at a maximum transfer rate of 44 kps, and also has phone and fax lines.

The following table shows the annual check-out rate and services for library resources by category for the Loyalton library station.

Loyalton Library Station - Library Statistics

Category	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Total Collection on Shelves	1683	1916	2131	2237
Adult Book Checkout	1801	1670	1441	1108
Young Adult & Juvenile Book Checkout	669	787	457	374
Audio Cassettes & CD's Checkout	207	84	30	63
Video Cassette Checkout	445	550	364	548
Author/Title Request	314	353	107	93
Inter-Library Loan requests	44	96	34	29
Library Cards Issued	489	484	125 *	203
Internet Users	not available	not available	87	55

*note: * New computer system required purging/reregistering all library card holders*

When comparing the Loyalton library station statistics to the Library Interest Survey results, it is easy to see how service limitations affect patron use of the library. Since 1998, when the Loyalton library moved into its current rented space, the book collection has grown from 1,683 volumes to 2,237 volumes representing a 33% increase in the collection. Conversely, the number of books being checked out has declined in the same time period. The problem is partially due to the lack of new books to interest readers, especially since the Loyalton library station has a relatively low 1.1 books per capita and the physical limitations of the library space not providing an appealing place to come and read.



Existing Sierra County Library rented space in Loyalton, CA

The Loyalton library space is extremely small and does not provide adequate reading space for the patrons. The rental space lacks adequate on-site parking and is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In addition, there is no meeting room, and space limits the ability to hold children's programs. On occasions when a group of school children visit the library, there is not room for more than 5 or 6 to stand in the library at one time without running into each other. The space is inadequate to hold collections which would meet the library's plan of service, and the limited contracted hours severely limit when patrons can access the station's limited services. The lack of high speed Internet access is also a deterrent for people to come

and use the library. One dial-up Internet computer is shared between public and staff; when a patron is using the computer, the staff-member is blocked from sitting at her desk.

Sierra County has made several attempts in the past to gather enough funding to construct a new library facility in the Loyalton/Sierra Valley area. In one recent attempt in 1992, the Sierra County Board of Supervisors secured the services of an architect and had preliminary plans prepared before the funding shortages made it impossible to proceed. The County also explored the possibility of partnering with the School District to use potentially surplus building space at the Loyalton Intermediate School (LIS), especially since the District was developing plans to relocate the LIS campus to a new site. Unfortunately, funding became the major constraint for this project, too.

Library Services That Are Needed But Currently Are Unavailable

According to the State Library definitions in Section 20430, Sierra County is the only county in California without an existing public library facility. The Loyalton library station cannot provide a number of services that are needed in the community, including high speed Internet access, reader seats and work tables, meeting room space, or even adequate bathrooms. Based on the demographics of the community and responses from the Interest Surveys, there is a need for library programs for children, homework support, and interesting books and programs for seniors, all of which cannot be supported in the current library station. The current library station cannot support programs to help overcome chronic unemployment problems in the community or support efforts to better prepare residents to seek a college education and return to the community to help rebuild the local economy.

While the Sierra County Literacy Program does have space in the current library station, that space is inadequate and potentially unsafe. The library station is not ADA compliant, and the staff workspace does not offer security over library resources or appropriate separation from patrons. The Loyalton library station is clearly deficient by modern library standards; there is not even adequate space to shelve the limited book collection that is circulated into the building. The new Sierra Valley Library will clearly respond to and address all of these deficiencies in a cost-effective and appropriately-sized facility.

While school libraries exist at all three schools in Loyalton, they are not available to students after school. Limited staff has precluded the availability of any homework center facility in Loyalton, and the Internet access computer to student ratio is extremely poor, especially for the Intermediate and High School students (grades 6-12). Many of the books in the school libraries are donated; quite a few are fairly old and in poor shape. The collections offer limited recreational reading. A new public library will provide students with access to computers and resources after school, and will offer a broader range of recreational reading materials. The public and school collections will not overlap significantly; the public library's collection will provide expanded resources to support the school's curriculum.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS OF EXISTING LIBRARY FACILITIES

According to the State Library definitions in Section 20430, Sierra County is the only county in California without an existing public library facility. Sierra County contracts with Plumas County to provide small collections of circulating books, supplies, delivery and contract personnel for four rental library stations. The nearest full-service libraries are in Portola and in Reno, NV, both over 25 miles away.

The Sierra County library system is comprised of four (4) small rented spaces in the communities of Alleghany, Downieville, Sierra City, and Loyalton. The Loyalton library station is located at 511 Main Street (Highway 49) and is part of a larger structure that includes a private residence. The library is a combination of the library space and the Sierra County Literacy Program office. The combined area is approximately 635 square feet, with 500 square feet devoted to the library activities, and the remaining 135 square feet devoted to the Literacy program.

The current Loyalton library station has several physical limitations that make it an unsuitable library space, and also hinder its ability to be re-developed into a suitable facility. First and foremost, the library is on a small parcel that is fully built out with the library room and a larger private residence on the rear of the parcel. There is no physical space to expand the building walls either toward the street frontage or to the side property lines. There is no on-site, off-street parking for this library, and no possibility of providing any on the parcel. The residence at the rear of the library is not a candidate for the further expansion since it is a two story building without elevator access to the second floor and has several other access deficiencies for disabled patrons; retrofitting the space to current code requirements would be extensive.

The current library space does not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and it would be almost impossible to retrofit the space to meet some of the basic accessibility standards. Starting at the front door, the door width barely accommodates a wheelchair since it is a standard residential, not a commercial/civic use door width. A wheelchair cannot access the Literacy Program room since there is a two step difference in the floor level from the main library area. Progressing through the library space, the book shelf aisles are too close, and there is limited turn around room. Finally, the single bathroom (1 toilet) does not have grab bars or other ADA compliant features (sink heights, faucets, etc.), and the doorway is too narrow for wheelchair access.

The lack of floor space has resulted in limiting the patron seating to one chair and small table. The current collection of 2,300 books are shelved and stored in every conceivable space in the room. There is one Internet connected computer terminal available for patrons with a maximum connection speed of 44 kps through a local dial-up service. There is no DSL service currently available in Loyalton, and it would be cost prohibitive to bring fiber-optics into the building to gain T-1 quality service.

The building space is not very energy efficient, having minimal insulation by current standards, and is heated by a single wall mounted propane radiant heater. The interior florescent lighting

and acoustics for the library are not ideal. The acoustics are especially challenging considering the small separation between the front of the library and the traffic on Main Street (Highway 49).

Overall, while the community has creatively adapted one of the few available commercial spaces in Loyalton into a library, it is significantly deficient in serving the needs of all residents, especially those with physical disabilities. The new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center will be a modern building that meets all of the provisions of the State Building Code and will be ADA compliant. Simple considerations like on-site parking and bicycle parking, and adequate patron seating for casual reading or intensive research will help to attract residents who may have by-passed using the current library in favor of better facilities in Portola, Quincy, or Reno, NV. The new Sierra Valley Library will be able to handle the book collection that is appropriate for the service area population and will provide high-speed Internet access with a sufficient number of computer terminals available at all times so the community can create new opportunities and prosper in this remote region of California.

PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS OF EXISTING LIBRARY FACILITIES

The proposed Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center will replace the current rented space occupied by the Loyalton library station. Sierra County is the only county in California without an existing public library facility, according to the State Library definition in Section 20430. The Sierra County library system is comprised of four (4) small rented spaces in the communities of Alleghany, Downieville, Sierra City, and Loyalton.

The Loyalton library station is located at 511 Main Street (Highway 49) and is part of a larger structure that includes a private residence. The library is a combination of the library space and the Sierra County Literacy Program office. The combined area is approximately 635 square feet, with 500 square feet devoted to the library activities, and the remaining 135 square feet devoted to the Literacy program. The following description of the physical limitations of the existing facility is based on visual observation and does not constitute a building code analysis of the structure.

a. Structural.

The Loyalton library is in a small structure that had been used previously as an office for an insurance broker. The building interior is wood and sheetrock. The building is over 30 years old and is in moderate repair. There is no apparent sagging of walls, roofline, or doors. There is a small residential-grade restroom in the back area of the library that shows evidence of leaks and broken equipment as evident in the buckling floor. The building shares a common wall with the larger residential structure on the rear of the parcel. It is uncertain if the firewall separation between the two parts of the overall building is adequate. There are no fire sprinklers in the building.

The Literacy Program office is a part of the overall library space and is accessed through a door and steps down slightly below the library floor. The ceiling in this portion of the building is sloping and does not provide adequate head clearance. The entire building appears to be a later addition to the main residence on the property or possibly a conversion of a garage into office space; County records are not computerized to easily determine when this construction took place. Due to the small parcel size and the existing construction, there is no opportunity to expand the building to provide any more space for library services.



b. Energy Conservation.

The Loyalton library station is heated with a single wall heater that uses propane. The propane heater generates an unpleasant smell which permeates the facility in winter. Temperature is controlled by a single wall thermostat. Lighting is a combination of florescent fixtures over the book shelves and incandescent bulb ceiling fixtures in the bathroom. Insulation in the walls and ceilings could not be determined, but the 2 x 4 construction would suggest R-11 insulation for the walls. There are three (3) dual-pane windows that provide natural light and ventilation into the library and literacy office space. Due to the pre-existing construction and small space of the building, there is very little additional energy conservation measures that could be installed to significantly control energy utilization in this building. A substantial re-model, including removal of interior wall and ceiling panels would be necessary to improve the insulation material and provide heating ducting to more efficiently heat the building and control energy costs.

c. Health and Safety.

The current wood wall paneling, lack of fire sprinklers, and single access door into the shared library and literacy program space are not an ideal situation from a fire protection and suppression perspective. The book shelf spacing and desks are very close together, which could impede safe exiting for patrons in the building if an emergency situation did occur. The bathroom facility, while kept clean by the library staff, is not designed for public usage and does not meet current standards for health or safety.

The literacy program space is unsafe due to the steps without railings leading down from the library floor level and the low door overhead clearance. Finally, the sloping ceiling curtails the use of the lowest wall to desk and storage uses since it does not provide adequate head clearance for tall people.

d. Disabled Access.

The Loyalton library station does not meet disability access standards in several respects. The front door is a standard residential width and is difficult to pass through in a wheelchair. A wheelchair could not access the literacy program space or the bathroom. The bathroom also lacks adequate grab-bars, and the sink fixture is not appropriate for physically challenged individuals. The bathroom is a small step down from the Library floor level. Library bookshelf aisles are also too tight for easy wheelchair navigation. Finally, there are no visually impaired Braille signs, audible signals, or light signals for hearing impaired patrons.

e. Acoustics.

The Loyalton library station was not originally designed as a quiet reading environment, so the noise level in the building can be high. The tight floor plan also can cause patrons to have to try to maneuver to avoid each other, resulting in moving chairs and other noise sources. The front of the building is approximately 15 feet from the roadway (i.e. Main Street - Highway 49), so traffic noise can also be overwhelming at times. Surprisingly, despite these adverse circumstances, the library does still have the “sound and feel” of a library because the staff and patrons work hard to make the best of the environment.

f. Space Flexibility/Expandability.

The Loyalton library station is extremely limited in any flexibility for the floor plan and placement of book shelving or seating. The small space, coupled with the location of the front door and doorways to the bathroom and literacy program room, also affect how furniture can be distributed. There is also no opportunity to expand the size of the library space. The building is already very close to the street, so the front wall cannot be moved out. The rear and sides are constrained by existing buildings and property lines.

Expansion of the library space would come at the expense of moving the Literacy Program out of its space or by converting the rear residence into library space. No estimate has been made of the expense or effort needed to convert the residential unit into library space, but there would be significant problems with retrofitting for ADA requirements and building code standards for civic use occupancy.

g. Functional Spatial Relationships.

The Loyalton library station has excellent functional space relationship since everything is literally adjacent to each other in this very small space! In a more practical light, there is no consideration for spatial relationships between seating and bookshelves, services areas and patron areas, and adult books versus children books because there is no way to separate these uses. The floor plan and placement of furniture are dictated by what can fit in the limited space available, and no space is wasted. Since there is no space available, the most notable lacking

feature in the library is reading space with comfortable chairs for the patrons to enjoy. The lack of a meeting room or study tables for groups to come together to discuss a book, work on homework, or lay out multiple books for researching a topic also makes this a functionally deficient library. Finally, the Library staff does not have a working area separated from the Library, creating a security problem for securing Library resources.

h. Site.

The Loyalton library station is on a commercially zoned parcel in the middle of the City of Loyalton. The parcel is a multi-use property, supporting both the library space and a residential unit. The library has high visibility given its storefront setting, with the front door immediately adjacent to the sidewalk. Unfortunately, there is no on-site parking, and the street frontage can only support parking for 2 or 3 cars. Additionally, there is no bicycle parking, exterior seating or physical amenities to attract residents to the site. As previously discussed, the site is not capable of supporting any expansion of the library. Any expansion of library service for the Sierra Valley communities will require the construction of a new facility that can satisfy the health, safety, and access requirements of all residents, and provide a sufficient and comfortable space to offer library services to this supportive population.

SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is designed as a multi-purpose, joint use facility to provide a single point of entry to a variety of information and health services needed by the Sierra Valley community. The new facility is intended to become a landmark public place for the use and enjoyment of the residents of Sierra County. Space that is used during the afternoon for homework center tutoring and instruction can be used in the morning for adult literacy programs and in the evening for academic achievement and public internet access. The proximity of a preschool will facilitate the introduction of books and reading to young children and their parents.

The community meeting room will be used by partner agencies for collaborative and individual needs. The following table shows the breakdown for the dedicated and common area portions of the Sierra Valley Library.

Area Description	Gross Floor Area (with walls) (sq.ft.)	Net Floor Area (sq.ft.)	Use / Comments
Assignable Space			
Checkout Counter/workstation	265	248	Staff area separated by counters/doors from public area. Book return slot/storage direct to the main lobby.
Local History Room	436	398	Collection of local interest to Sierra County residents. Offers a quiet reading space separate from any homework center activities.
Homework Center Classroom/Adult Literacy	268	236	Quiet space separated from main library room for tutoring, direct instruction of small groups.
HWC Main Library	507	485	Homework center tables and computer terminals; used by public when not in SPJUSD use.
Children's Library (portion of Main)	331	310	Children's collection and low seating for young & developing readers.
Reading chairs and tables (portion of Main)	414	403	Space dispersed throughout main library room.
Main Stacks (portion of Main)	470	448	Shelving and aisle space for main library collection.
Meeting Room (48% assignment)	275	257	Space shared with C&F wing.
Non-assignable Space			
Interior Bathrooms (2)	100	92	
Storage/Workroom	109	98	Space for Internet/computer hub terminal. Storage for HWC and library supplies not needed at the checkout counter.
Lobby & Entryway (48% assignment)	205	187	Space shared with C&F wing. Public display cases for promoting library activities, rotating art in public places displays, historical artifacts, etc.
Lobby Bathrooms (48% assignment)	61	55	Space shared with C&F wing.
Mechanical Room (48% assignment)	65	55	Space shared with C&F wing.
Kitchen & Custodial (48% assignment)	73	69	Space shared with C&F wing.

Total Gross Floor Area	3,579	3,341	
Assignable Area & %	2,785	78%	
Non-assignable Area & %	794	22%	

source: S/V/W/B Architects.

The interior of the Sierra Valley Library is designed for maximum flexibility, allowing for space to be reconfigured as local interest and usage is established and redefined over time. As the County's population ages as predicted in the demographics section, there may be a greater need for adult reading spaces and less demand for the children's reading room; the open floor design allows for these adjustments without sacrificing the quality library experience the new facility will provide for the community.

a. Library Collections

The current Loyalton library station contains approximately 2,237 volumes that are shelved in every conceivable space in the 500 square foot facility. The new Sierra Valley Library is designed to handle a book collection proportionately comparable to the Portola Library, which is also operated by the Plumas County Library system. The Portola Library is in approximately 3,900 square feet of space and accommodates a collection of approximately 9,500 books to serve a population of 3,500 residents. This capacity equates to approximately 2.44 books per gross square foot and 2.71 books per capita. Using this rough standard for the 3,579 gross square feet of library/homework center space in the new Loyalton facility, a collection of approximately 8,700 volumes could be handled, representing a 290 % increase in books available to the Sierra Valley residents.

Based on the current Library service area population of 2,037 residents, the Loyalton library station has 1.1 volumes per capita. The Library Plan of Service identifies a goal of 2.0 volumes per capita upon opening, and eventually increases to 3.0 volumes per capita over the 40 year period. The following table shows the desired book collection for the Sierra Valley Library based on this goal.

Sierra Valley Library
Projected Service Area Population and Volumes per Capita
2000 - 2040

Year	Service Area Population	Volumes per Capita (2.0 to 3.0) Goal
2000	2,037	4,074 - 6,111 (2,237 actual)
2010	2,177	4,354 - 6,531
2020	2,326	4,652 - 6,978
2030	2,487	4,974 - 7,461
2040	2,659	5,318 - 7,677

The goal of 3.0 books per capita, while low by Wisconsin standards (comparative index), will exceed the volumes per capita in Portola. In addition, Loyalton residents will have access to an overall collection of 70,000+ volumes owned by the Plumas County Library, as well as inter-

library loan access to materials owned by libraries in the North State Cooperative Library System.

One of the important considerations in the space planning for the new Sierra Valley Library is both the desired collection size through the life-cycle of this library (presumed to be 40+ years), and the space requirements for the joint use activities of the School District homework center. The new Library also needs to provide comfortable and inviting reading spaces for people of all ages, as well as adequate space for a children's reading area, both of which received high survey marks as a reason to visit a library. The Sierra Valley Library is designed to handle the desired book collection and provide adequate seating for patrons to enjoy a positive reading experience. The following table identifies the projected collection of books for the Sierra Valley Library based on the service goal of 3.0 volumes per capita, in the same proportion as the current collection in the Portola Library.

**Sierra Valley Library
Projected 2040 Collection by Type**

Collection Type	Number of Books	volumes/linear foot	# of 3-foot shelves w/25% extra
Picture Books	830	25	14
Easy Readers	120	25	2
Fairy Tales	90	20	2
Chapter Books	780	15	22
Young Adult	350	15	10
Fiction	1250	10	53
Mysteries	430	12	15
Westerns	290	12	10
Science Fiction	130	12	5
Large Print	140	10	6
Non-Fiction (adult & jr.)	2600	12	91
Biographies	100	12	4
Reference	320	10	14
New Books	100	12	4
Audio Books	150	12	6
sub-total:	7,680		258
Videos	100	12	4
Magazines	15 subscriptions	3 per shelf	5
		# of shelves for collection:	267

Source: M. Miles - comparable collection to Portola and Greenville Branch Libraries - 2003

The projected number of book shelf ranges as shown on the Sierra Valley Library furniture plan is shown in the following table.

Proposed Sierra Valley Library Shelving Inventory

Shelving type	# of 3-foot wide units	# of shelves
5 shelf unit (7')	33	165
3 shelf unit (4')	30	90
2 shelf unit (2'6")	5	10
Total Shelves		265

note: Planned shelving does not include Local History Room furniture inventory

As shown in the preceding tables, the desired book collection to meet a goal of 3.0 volumes per capita over the 40 year timeframe can be accommodated by the 265 three (3) foot wide shelving units planned for the Sierra Valley Library.

Plumas County's contract with Sierra County for library service includes collection development services. All materials are selected, processed, and owned by Plumas County Library. New materials will be selected by Plumas County Librarians in accordance with the Library's collection development policy, and existing Plumas County Library materials will be moved to the Sierra Valley Library to meet community needs and per capita goals.

b. Readers' Seats

Lack of comfortable reading chairs is one of the main deficiencies with the current rented library space and is an important feature that will attract residents to a new library facility. The Sierra Valley Library is designed with space for five (5) comfortable reading chairs in the main area and three (3) adult/oversized chairs in the children's section. The main library section will also include two (2) loveseats and two (2) standing computer stations for fast online catalog and Internet access. The children's area will have one (1) pre-school sized table with four (4) chairs and one (1) intermediate sized table, also with four (4) chairs.

The Libris Design Standards were used to calculate square footage required for all seating. The number of lounge reader seats was determined based on a standard of 4 seats per 1,000 residents when the future service population reaches 3,000. It is the goal of the Homework Center to accommodate 30 students, and seating in the homework center area plus the Literacy office/classroom meets this standard. The Local History Room is intended to accommodate groups of up to 12 people, and seating in this area meets this standard.

The Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center incorporates a homework center into the library space that will provide ample table space for twelve (12) students in the main room. Using the Libris Design Standard of 140 square feet per 6-chair table, 270 square feet will be devoted to this use. The homework center tables will be available to all patrons when SPJUSD instructional activities are not scheduled. The enclosed Literacy classroom will also include a long table that will accommodate up to ten (10) students at one time, requiring 200 square feet of space. All tables and seating in the homework center and classroom are adult-

sized furniture. Finally, the homework center main room will include eight (8) computer carrels for instructional activities that will also be available to regular patrons when not in use by SPJUSD. The enclosed classroom will have four (4) computer terminals for instructional purposes and support for the Sierra County Literacy Program.

The Local History Room includes two (2) tables that can each seat six (6) patrons for a total of twelve (12) table seats and 270 square feet. The room will also have two (2) computer stations and a microfilm reader station, at 15 square feet each.

The total table seating and adult seating throughout the library, including the HWC, classroom, and Local History Room is 43 seats. The total children's seating in the library is 8 seats plus one (1) oversized reading chair. The total number of technology workstations seats is 14. There are two (2) additional computer terminals with Internet access next to the main book stacks that are height adjustable for either standing-use or for wheelchair accessible heights.

c. Technology

The new Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center will provide a central location for residents and students to come and benefit from the latest advancements in computer and Internet access for personal and educational needs. The Sierra Valley communities are dramatically underserved in access to high-speed Internet service. There are no DSL providers in the area, and dial-up service is limited to 44 kps transfer rates. The existing rental space serving as a Loyalton library has one dial-up Internet computer for use by staff and the public.

The School District has very good service to the Sierra Valley schools, but student use is limited to specific instructional class time and lunchtime library hours. The school computers are not available to students after 3:00 p.m., and they are not available to parents or the general public.

The inventory of potential computer terminals with Internet access in the new facility include:

Children and Families Wing - 7 connected workstations.

Toddler Towers Day Care - 2 computers for staff; one printer

SCOE special education teacher working with Toddler Towers staff - 1 computer (printer shared with Toddler Towers)

SCCFC (First Five) Executive Director's Office (small) - 2 computers; one printer.

Sierra County District Health community outreach exam room - 2 computers; one printer.

Library / Homework Center Wing - 19 connected workstations

Library staff - 2 computers; one printer.

Public library area Catalog and Internet access computers - 2 computers; (printer shared with staff)

Local history room - 3 computers / research & media; one printer.

SPJUSD Homework center - 12 computers (8 in main, 4 in classroom); one printer.

Sierra County Literacy Program staff - 1 computer (printer shared with HWC)

The new facility will connect via wireless link to the current Internet access portal in the Loyaltan Elementary School (LES). The LES capability is an 802.11b - 11 Mb connection that ties into the DS3 fiber link to the school system in Loyaltan. In order to make the link the library will need to purchase a wireless ethernet bridge set and an ethernet 10/100 switch. This equipment will occupy approximately 2 square feet - wall mounted in the Literacy/Library storage room. The wireless connection requires a line-of-sight installation, which is easily achieved at this site. Connection speeds of up to 11 Mb are anticipated.

The available bandwidth should be capable of supporting up to 20 simultaneous users/workstations. Internal wiring will include a punch down block, switches or hubs and category 5 or 6 cabling to connect the client workstations to the network.

d. Staff Offices and Workstations

Staffing at the Sierra Valley Library will be based on staffing at Plumas County Library branches, which are staffed by a single Branch Library Assistant and part-time Literacy Aide. In cooperation with the Sierra County Office of Education, staffing will be shared by a Homework Center Aide provided by SCOE. Services will be expanded with the use of trained volunteers and work-experience students.

Literacy Aide	.6 FTE
Homework Center Aide	.4 FTE
Branch Library Assistant	.4 FTE

The Sierra Valley Library will have one staff member present during all full service operating hours. In addition, the Library has a goal of having one library volunteer present at least 10 hours per week (2/3rd of the time) to help support the library staff. The design standard for the staff workstation is the 5-foot by 8-foot "L" shaped desk space, resulting in 40 assignable square feet (Libris design glossary). Both the staff member and volunteer will be located at the circulation/information desk at the front of the library. The Literacy Aide workstation will be located in the Literacy classroom. When the County Librarian visits the facility, meetings with staff will be conducted in either the Literacy classroom or, if necessary, in the meeting room.

The Sierra County Literacy Program will operate out of the homework center enclosed classroom. An "L-shaped" 5-foot by 6-foot workstation is included in this room for the Literacy Program staff to keep a computer/printer and phone for their program needs. Storage space is provided in the adjoining workroom to keep reading resources that are not part of the Library collection. Depending on the Literacy Program client needs and available reading tutors/mentors, this classroom may be used during the morning and early afternoon hours or after the homework center student time period.

e. Meeting Room Requirements

The joint use meeting room in the Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center is intended to support groups of up to 25 people based on a seating area of 20 square feet per occupant (California Building Code). Smaller groups would be accommodated if seated around folding conference tables, and groups of up to 60 children can be accommodated if seated on the floor. The ultimate size and capacity of the meeting room is based on focus group responses from the participating agencies and design charrettes, who determined that space is needed for groups of 25 people for the type of meeting intended to be conducted in the room. This meeting room is not intended to replace the Loyalton Social Hall, which is located adjacent to the new Library, where public agency meetings are conducted by the City and the County, or the multi-purpose room in the Loyalton Elementary School where larger community events are held. The 535 square feet of meeting space is larger than the current rented library space in Loyalton and can easily serve the needs of the community for the next 40 years. As one focus group participant stated, it will be an ideal setting for poetry readings and literary events that have been sorely lacking in the community. Local artists are also interested in using the space for setting up juried displays of local work and for technique workshops.

f. Special Purpose: Miscellaneous Space Needs

The Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center will include a local history room to help celebrate the rich history and development of Sierra County and the Sierra Valley. In addition to books, other materials may include maps, photographs, microfilm of older newspapers, and film/fiche of land grants and mining claims. Equipment in the room will include a microfilm/fiche reader/printer, two computers with high-speed Internet access, and a laser printer. Allocation of space for the Local History Room was based on Libris standards for the computers, equipment, and seating needed in the room. A detailed list of all equipment and space allocations is provided in the Library Building Program.

The main entrance to the building and the lobby leading to the shared meeting room is assigned in equal proportion to the each wing of the building. The lobby area includes a water fountain, community bulletin boards, wall art, and static display cases. The entrance is designed to be an inviting continuation from the exterior porch and leads any visitor to the Sierra Valley Library, the Children and Families Center, or the shared meeting room. Any one of the three building uses can be open and will benefit from this entry space.

Display cases in the lobby will make it possible to feature rotating displays of documents and artifacts; partnerships with the local museum and the Sierra County Historical Society are being pursued to this end.

Usable wall space throughout the Library, meeting room, and building lobby will be devoted to rotating public art displays and young artist displays provided by the Sierra County Arts Council.

g. Non-assignable Space

The Sierra Valley Library is part of a joint-use, multi-purpose facility that has shared common space. In addition to the meeting room, the common spaces include two (2) lobby bathrooms (handicapped accessible) and a kitchen to provide food service for the meeting room, as well as a place where program staff can heat a meal during breaks. Only half of the total bathroom and kitchen floor area is assigned to the Library wing totals. The kitchen space also includes a mop sink and storage cabinets for cleaning supplies.

There is one mechanical room to serve the entire building with half of the space assigned to each building wing. The mechanical room will house the HVAC equipment, the main electrical service panel, and the fire sprinkler control systems.

In addition to the miscellaneous space and the shared spaces, there is approximately 238 square feet of wall area within the 3,579 gross square feet of Library space. The Library also has a 98 net square foot workroom and storage space previously discussed which serves as the equipment room for the SPJUSD Internet hub server and radio-relay link for the Internet service. This space also provides secure storage area for the Literacy Program materials and the Homework Center/Academic Achievement program resources that may brought into the Library by either the SPJUSD and/or Feather River Community College. The storage room space is also available for the library staff to use for items that do not require immediate daily access. The total non-assignable space of interior and exterior walls, and the combined area of the bathrooms, lobby, kitchen, storage room and mechanical room is approximately 794 square feet, representing approximately 22% of the total library space.

All calculations for the common area are based on a 48% to 52% split based on the space unique to the Library Wing, versus the space unique to the Children and Families Wing. The Cooperative Use Agreement adopted by the four agencies involved with the creation of the facility includes a graphic that defines the “Common Area” to the building.

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	Sierra County Library System Sierra County Children and Families Commission Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District and the Sierra County Office of Education Library Interest Survey - Summary of Results <i>Updated November 21, 2002</i>	
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Total number of survey respondents: **221**

note: Not all respondents answered every question, so individual question totals may not equal the total survey number.

Are you a resident of Sierra County?	Yes	180
Or are you a resident of Plumas County?	Yes	34
What is your Gender?	Male 28%	Female 72%
What is your Age Group?	0-10 years	1%
	11-20 years	20%
	21-45 years	46%
	46-60 years	29%
	61+ years	4%
How long have you lived in Sierra or Plumas County?	Less than 2 years	8%
	2 – 5 years	15%
	6 – 10 years	23%
	11 – 20 years	27%
	More than 20 years	26%
Have you ever visited a Sierra County Branch library?	Yes	65%
	No	35%
If “Yes,” when was the last visit?	In the last 2 years	70%
	2 – 5 years	19%
	6 – 10 years	6%
	11 – 20 years	3%
	More than 20 years ago	2%
Do you have an active library card for any public library?	Yes	45%
	No	55%
If a new branch library was built in the Loyalton area, please indicate what services you think you would use the most? (<i>you may choose more than one</i>)	9%	Access to the Internet
	9%	Access to periodicals & newspapers
	9%	Reference Desk
	11%	Children’s reading books & reading room
	9%	Homework assistance
	3%	Adult Literacy Programs
	8%	Faster access to new book releases
	7%	Quiet reading area
	7%	Career Resources & Job Center
	11%	Other media sources (videos, books on tape, CDs)
	18%	Check-out books & requesting books

Recognizing the cost to taxpayers, how many hours per week do you think it is reasonable to have the library open? <i>(choose only one)</i>	3% 1 – 10 hours per week 42% 11 – 20 hours per week 38% 21 – 30 hours per week 13% 31 – 40 hours per week 3% More than 40 hours per week.
If you do visit the library, what times would you most likely go? <i>(choose only one)</i>	4% 8am – noon weekdays 25% noon – 5pm weekdays 38% 5pm – 8pm weekdays 10% Saturdays only 22% Anytime it is open.

Please choose the THREE (3) most important features that attract you to a public library *(mark only 3 choices)*:

10% Large selection of books.	3% Quiet & comfortable reading space.	4% Access to Internet computers.
2% Large selection of periodicals & newspapers.	8% Good reference materials for doing research.	3% Ability to request books from other libraries.
2% Community meeting spaces.	2% Courteous & knowledgeable staff.	3% Children's reading room.
3% Safe place for children.	1% Adult literacy programs.	4% Convenient open hours.
1% Public art displays.	2% Access to a copying machine.	1% Ample parking spaces.

Please offer your opinion for the following questions.

Library service is still relevant in the Internet Age:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 76%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 19%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 2%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 0%	<i>No Opinion</i> 3%
A library is an important meeting place in the community:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 43%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 42%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 8%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 1%	<i>No Opinion</i> 5%
A library should provide special programs for young children:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 77%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 21%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 1%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 0%	<i>No Opinion</i> 0%
A library should provide special programs for seniors:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 58%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 35%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 3%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 0%	<i>No Opinion</i> 3%
A library should provide special programs for English language learners and non-readers:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 57%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 35%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 5%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 0%	<i>No Opinion</i> 4%
A library is an important reason why people decide to move into an area, or establish a business in the area:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 13%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 32%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 25%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 11%	<i>No Opinion</i> 19%
I personally use a library for finding books and other resources of interest to me:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 53%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 32%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 5%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 3%	<i>No Opinion</i> 6%
If I want to read a newly released book, I will buy it rather than wait to check it out of the library:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 17%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 31%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 26%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 19%	<i>No Opinion</i> 8%
Libraries improve the quality of life in a community:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 60%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 30%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 4%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 0%	<i>No Opinion</i> 6%

note: 0% values may represent one or two responses in a category, which is not large enough to round up to 1%.



Please indicate your favorite type of book you would go to the library for (*you can choose more than one*):

9% Action / Adventure	10% Fiction / Literature	7% Books on tape.	5% Career Resources
9% Children's Literature	3% Financial / Business	8% History / Biographies	7% Mysteries
4% Periodicals	5% Philosophy & Religion	9% Reference & Encyclopedia	4% Romance
5% Science Fiction	10% Technical & "how-to" books	2% Westerns	3% Other **

** "Other" book categories listed by respondents include: "inspirational," "nature," "psycho action thrillers," "sports (5 times)," "horror/suspense," "fantasy," "sports," "Act of war," "crime/murder," "scary stuff!," "International authors," "genealogy," "monthly magazines," "PBS videos," and "Parenting."

The library will be part of a larger building with other uses. Please indicate if you believe the following are good uses near a library:

A child day care center is a good use in or near a library:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 41%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 38%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 12%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 5%	<i>No Opinion</i> 4%
A community meeting room is a good use in or near a library:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 52%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 39%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 4%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 1%	<i>No Opinion</i> 4%
Adult education space is a good use in or near a library:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 61%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 30%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 4%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 0%	<i>No Opinion</i> 5%
An after-school homework and student study center is a good use in or near a library:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 83%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 16%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 0%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 1%	<i>No Opinion</i> 0%
An Internet "Cafe" is a good use in or near a library:				
<i>Strongly Agree</i> 49%	<i>Somewhat Agree</i> 33%	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i> 9%	<i>Strongly Disagree</i> 4%	<i>No Opinion</i> 5%

	<p style="text-align: center;">Sierra County Library System Sierra County Children and Families Commission Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District and the Sierra County Office of Education</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Library Interest Survey - Summary of Results <i>Updated November 21, 2002</i></p>	
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Please use the following space to provide any additional comments about a new library in the Loyalton area. RECORDED RESPONSES:

I think adults & seniors would greatly benefit. The kids have schools to support some of their needs. I would like to see adults have reading & Internet access.

This community is in dire need of suitable performance venues.

Take a look at the Quincy & Portola libraries, which we used this past summer for research in college classes. They are both great libraries!

Our library is in need - our community would love it!!

It's Time!

I would like it if it had a large selection of books so you can find just about anything you want or need.

I think it is great; I usually take my children to Reno libraries because they offer so much more.

Great idea - would like to see a cooperative link with local schools, etc.

A library that is kept organized & clean will help draw and keep customers.

A new library in Loyalton will improve our quality of life and make our town a more desirable place to live. I hope adult literacy programs will be a part of the new library.

I think that a library will be greatly utilized and appreciated in this community.

I feel it is especially important for children; after-school hours help this.

Internet should have filter. Would like to donate books.

It would be a good idea. Hopefully renew interest in reading.

When is it going to open?

I think a new library would be a wonderful addition to our community. I would love for our kids to have more resources & newer releases for us too!

Good luck. I hope you can make it happen this time. We had full funding for a library years ago. People didn't seem to care and funds were lost.

Great idea.

I think it is necessary for the growth of this community.

We need a library in the area to promote literacy.

I'm thrilled about the prospect of a new building. Most people in the community don't realize we are already part of an excellent library system; it's just hard to wait for materials to come from other facilities. Good luck!

Attach the library to the school & combine the use. Don't duplicate resources.

A new library could provide a safe, quiet, friendly place to read books & magazines, to research & make notes - to write. A clean, welcoming atmosphere, spacious areas would encourage adults & children & youth to become acquainted with the privileges offered by a new library. A new library in Loyalton could open doors to opportunities & new horizons for everyone. A new library will be an investment in our community - in our people.

Child day care may be distracting at/near a library.

If we had a new library I would use it a lot more. I like to read but don't always have the money to buy the books. Therefore I would use the library a lot.

I think that if there were a new library put into the Loyalton area, it might only get used as much as the other libraries, unless some of those other centers are indeed put around it.

I think it would be a good idea, but it must have a wide variety of books to be checked out. It can't just be concentrated in a certain area.

Good luck!

Personally, between the high school's library and the library in Loyalton - I find everything I need. I do, however, think that having a library with more information based on periodicals and newspapers, and I can see that having a library with many different resources can be helpful.

It would need to be large enough to fit chairs or couches comfortably & there would need to be a copy machine available & a lot of reference materials as well as Internet access for students. The hours would need to be at least from 3:00 - 7:00 so students could use it on school days. Special programs for different age groups would be nice also. Good lighting too!

Please let the librarian be nice.

A lot of research is helpful!

You should have hard-back books for people to buy or rent; have a part to buy books too.

A new library in Loyalton would improve the community by helping with homework after school and allowing Internet access.

I would like to see a new library in this town.

I think it is a really good idea and many people will enjoy it.

I think it is a very good idea and I would take the time to see it.

As a student, I would greatly appreciate the research and Internet access.

If our library got bigger, it would be good for our community.

I do not use a library frequently but it's nice to have it open for research on papers.

If it can be a center for higher education opportunities for high school grads, it would be the strongest asset outside of the basic needs of a library. Could it be branched to the West side (like a sub-station)?

I would love to see a bigger, better (hopefully) library in Loyalton - reading should be mandatory!

Go for it!

We also need to upgrade the library in Downieville, or Western Sierra County. I will certainly make the trip to Loyalton to use the new library there when it is complete.

Although not one of my "top three," I strongly urge the committee to ensure a "cozy, comfortable" sitting area for library users - after all - isn't that what "library" stands for - being able to locate a book - any kind-and read.

I strongly hope this happens!

Loyalton has a need for a larger library.

Good Idea!

I would really like a good library here because it is a real pain to borrow books from Reno.

Loyalton is a grand place.

I think it would be the best thing.

Thank you.

It would greatly improve the community.

What a fantastic idea. The library would give teenagers a place to go with something positive to do. It would be a great community resource and give the community a place to go without leaving town.

We badly need one!

A new library would be a tremendous asset to our community. It needs to have convenient hours of operation for all who will be using it. Linking to the nearby colleges would be a plus also.

Many people need instruction on how to use a library and find books.

I think it would be a great idea if there was a nice library and activities for kids; it would probably make them more interested in books and reading.

Reading opens the mind to all possibilities. In a rural area such as ours this is more important than ever.

A good library is a very important part of a community; bringing community members together for worthwhile purposes, helping to increase the intellectual and social levels of the community and also providing a nurturing environment for children and adults of all ages in our chaotic culture.

(I) moved from a small community, about the size of Loyalton, which had just replaced their teeny old library. It became a very positive focal point for all the activities you've outlined and became a tremendous community asset. Go for it! P.S. - A local artist painted a scene on one of the walls which was pretty special - incorporating local artists and craftsmen made the place quite beautiful and unique.

I would probably not use a Loyalton library very often as I live in the Downieville area.

This is a big step for building a community in a town with its head up its ass!

We need one!

Sierra County Children and Families Commission
Loyalton Library and Children and Families Center Project

Library Needs Assessment Focus Group
Friday, September 20, 2002
Loyalton Social Hall (at the Loyalton City Park), 105 Beckwith Street, Loyalton

Focus Group Panel:

Penny Berry, Site Administrator, Loyalton Elementary School
Mary Genasci, Sierra County Superintendent of Schools
Linda Guffin, Sierra County Office of Education, Birth to 5 Special Needs Teacher
Charlene Kreeger, Program Manager, Child Development Corp.
Scott McCallum, Sierra County Office of Education, special Projects Manager
Margaret Miles, Plumas County Librarian (serving Sierra County)
Brooks Mitchell, Sierra County Supervisor - District 4
Rich Swanson, PhD., Superintendent, Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District
Pat Whitley, Sierra County Supervisor - District 5
Carolyn Widman, Chair, Toddler Towers Day Care Center Executive Board
Gloria Wyeth, Executive Director, SCCFC
W. Dean Diederich, Facilitator / Project Manager

Focus Group Questions:

How do you think library service can be improved in Sierra County?

Describe some of the services and programs that you think are essential to make library service successful in a community like Loyalton and the Sierra Valley region?

Describe how improved library service can help your organization to provide better service to the residents of Sierra County?

Describe what library services may be lacking, or are insufficient to meet the needs of the Sierra Valley community.

Are you aware of any special needs groups that are currently underserved and could use more library services? If so, how could we improve library service to these residents?

How would you envision a collaborative effort working between Sierra County as the library operator, and other service agencies to bring cost-effective library service to all residents in the Sierra Valley region?

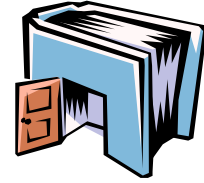
Please list all the community organizations that you know of who could benefit from and utilize a new library in the Sierra Valley region.

Please list some of the factors you believe are essential to make a new library building as user-friendly and accessible as possible for the community.

Please list any opportunities and potential threats that would affect the community's ability to develop a new library in the Loyalton area. In your opinion, how should we take advantage of the opportunities and minimize the threats.



*Mark Your Calendar!!
and plan on attending the
Planning and Design Workshops*



(a.k.a. Design Charettes - or -- community shindig for the new building)

for the

Sierra Valley Library and Children and Families Center

Architect Moderator: Brad Van Woert
(S/V/W/B Architects - Reno, NV)

First meeting: 3:00 to 5:30 p.m., Monday, November 18, 2002
Loyalton Social Hall @ Loyalton City Park

Second meeting: 3:00 to 5:30 p.m., Monday, December 2, 2002
(location to be announced at first meeting)

What's this all about? A new, 7000 square foot building is being proposed at the Northwest corner of the Loyalton Elementary School property to provide space for the following uses:

Library
Homework Center
Child Care / Special Needs Children Center
Community Health Outreach Space
Family-skills Training and Education Space
Any other ideas that you may have!

Who should attend: EVERYONE who has any interest in how this new building should be used, how it should look, what should be inside it, or just have an idea that you want to be considered.

What to bring: Just your brain and a desire to participate!

If possible, please let us know you are coming by sending an e-mail to:
planner@psln.com (this will help us to know how many chairs to set up)

Questions?? -- call either Gloria Wyeth at 993-4884 or Dean Diederich at 993-4886

Presented by the Sierra County Children & Families Commission.

